Flavours of the Caribbean

From upscale wining and dining to its famous fish fry, Barbados may very well be a foodie's paradise PAGE 22

SCARY STUFF, BUT IS IT HORROR?

JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN SAYS THE POSSESSION IS A FILM ABOUT CHARACTER, NOT GORE PAGE 18

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Day-old kittens left in cooler

Surrey. Newborn litter found in container on sidewalk is now being cared for by SPCA

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Six newborn kittens — some with their umbilical cords still attached and eyes not yet open — were found in a cooler Monday on a sidewalk in Surrey.

A woman on her way to work saw an open cooler next to a sign that said "Free kittens" near Whalley Boulevard and 108A Avenue around 5:30 p.m.

"Luckily she called us and we were able to get them right away because they probably wouldn't have survived too much longer in the cooler," BC SPCA spokesperson Lorie Chortyk said Tuesday.

The kittens were dehydrated and overheated from being in direct sunlight, she added.

They are now being cared for at the BC SPCA animal hospital in Vancouver and will be sent to foster homes for round-the-clock care once they are well enough to leave the hospital.

"They're always quite susceptible to disease, especially without their mother's milk that has certain antibodies that they need at that age," Chortyk said. "But they're doing great, they're being fed every two hours and they're hydrated now.

"There are SPCA shelters and rescue groups that you can bring animals to if you can't care for them yourself," she added. "To leave day-old kittens in a cooler where they have no chance of surviving is not the right path to take."

Last week, a BC SPCA investigation led to a criminal animal-cruelty charge laid against a Vancouver man who allegedly tortured a kitten on video for almost an hour. Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to call the BC SPCA Investigations Department at 604-647-1318.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Quoted

"There are SPCA shelters and rescue groups that you can bring animals to if you can't care for them yourself."
BC SPCA spokesperson Lorie Chortyk

Six newborn kittens, some with their umbilical cords still attached, were found abandoned in a cooler on a Surrey sidewalk Monday. COURTESY OF BC SPCA

Stay off the cellphone

Distracted driving is now the third-leading cause of car-crash fatalities in B.C. PAGE 3

Families decry Aurora fund

A fundraising campaign centred on the Colorado movie massacre is not popular with victims' families PAGE 14

Innovation, not imitation

After a bruising $1-billion US patent verdict, Samsung must now try to design its own way forward PAGE 15

An emotional ending

Canada's Top Chef Dale MacKay talks about having to close his two Vancouver eateries PAGE 4

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Montreal	from $599 incl $437 base + $162 taxes & fees
London	from $724 incl $149 base + $575 taxes & fees
Frankfurt	from $797 incl $239 base + $558 taxes & fees
Costa Rica	from $799 incl $491 base + $308 taxes & fees
Buenos Aires	from $987 incl $448 base + $539 taxes & fees
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USA Short Breaks

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Portland 3 Nights — from $280 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom near Pioneer Square and the Pearl District.

Canada Short Breaks

Whistler
Thanksgiving Weekend, 3 Nights
from $159
taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the Village during the annual Ski & Board Swap Turkey Sale. **ADD** tree canopy walk from $50.

Harrison Hot Springs 2 Nights — from $174 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $36 per day.

Sunshine Coast 2 Nights — from $179 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES award winning, oceanview accom on Halfmoon Bay.

Osoyoos 2 Nights — from $197 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on a private beachfront near Okanagan wineries and orchards.

Tofino 2 Nights — from $224 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom at Mackenzie Beach. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $15 per night.

Canada

Montreal Air + 3 Nights
from $866
incl $685 base + $181 taxes & fees
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** Laurentian Mountains tour from $56.

Quebec City Air + 3 Nights — from $1015 incl $834 base + $181 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom in historic centre. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $29 per night.

Hawaii

Honolulu
Air + 7 Nights
from $754
incl $589 base + $165 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Waikiki Beach.

Maui Air + 7 Nights — from $824 incl $659 base + $165 taxes & fees
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New Orleans Air + 3 Nights 4.5-Star + 7-Night Cruise — from $1477 incl $1249 base + taxes & fees $228
INCLUDES airfare, 3 nights 4.5-star French Quarter accom and cruise sailing roundtrip New Orleans visiting Mexico, Belize and Honduras. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $12 per night.

Vacations

London Air + 8 Nights — from $1171 incl $596 base + $575 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Russell Square accom. **ADD** London Eye ticket from $33.

Bali Air + 7 Nights — from $1577 incl $1131 base + $446 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom in Kuta Beach. **BONUS** daily breakfast and 1 dinner included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $28 per night.

USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from $239*
incl $172 base + $67 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $15 per night.

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $223◊ incl $155 base + $68 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *1-Park Per Day* Ticket from $222/adult, $207/child (ages 3-9).

San Diego Air + 3 Nights — from $526 incl $396 base + $130 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near major attractions. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $27 per night. **ADD** zoo admission from $105.

Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $579 incl $439 base + $140 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown accom near restaurants and shopping.

Napa Valley
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $586 incl $464 base + $122 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Sonoma Wine Country accom. **ADD** 3-day car rental from the San Francisco airport from $24 per day.

Chicago Air + 3 Nights — from $776 incl $651 base + $125 taxes & fees
INCLUDES River North accom on Restaurant Row. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $10 per night. **ADD** hop-on, hop-off trolley from $26.

New York Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $826 incl $639 base + $187 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown Manhattan accom.

New Orleans Air + 4 Nights — from $836 incl $701 base + $135 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $24 per night. **ADD** jazz brunch buffet from $43.

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Wildlife. Cougar that attacked woman in home was starving, say police

A starving cougar that walked into the home of a woman and attacked her while she sat in her living room is now dead.

"The woman was in her house with a number of puppies when the cougar walked in through an open door and attacked her on the sofa," Trail RCMP Sgt. Rob Hawton said of the weekend incident.

With the help of her dog, the woman fought the cougar off and chased it out of the house.

She received a couple of minor injuries to her upper leg from the cougar's claws.

The cougar was gone by the time police arrived. Hawton said a subsequent search was not successful.

B.C. Conservation officers were called in and the cougar was tracked down and destroyed Monday.

"This is an extremely rare occurrence and was driven by the animal's desperation for food," Hawton said.

The cougar is believed to have been too weak from starvation to hunt normally.

Earlier this month, the president of the Trail Wildlife Association, Terry Hanik, raised the alarm of a rise in predators in the region.

Hanik said cougars and wolves were pushing their way into the area, adding to the huge number of coyotes already plaguing the back country and eroding the deer population. Predators have been forced to look into more settled areas where deer have been thriving for years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Burnaby RCMP officer issues a ticket to a driver for using a cellphone while driving Tuesday as ICBC and police kicked off their annual distracted-driving campaign at Kensington Park in Burnaby. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Hang up your bad habit, warn police

Toll. Distracted driving is the third-leading cause of B.C.'s traffic fatalities, says ICBC

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Leave your phone alone.

That's the message ICBC and police stressed at this year's distracted-driving campaign, urging drivers to resist the temptation of talking and texting behind the wheel.

ICBC says distracted driving is now the third-leading cause of car crash fatalities in B.C., behind speeding and impaired driving.

West Vancouver police Chief Peter Lapine said people have become addicted to their electronic devices and have tried various, often unique, ways of hiding their phones to avoid getting caught.

"There's a driver who taped his phone to the steering wheel to make it 'hands-free,'" Lapine said Tuesday.

"He thought it was a great idea, but if the airbag had gone off that phone would have hit him right in the face."

Burnaby drivers learned it the hard way Tuesday morning as Mounties pulled over a number of drivers using hand-held devices or not wearing a seatbelt at Hastings Street and Kensington Avenue.

Since legislation was introduced in 2010, Lapine said close to 120,000 distracted-driving tickets have been issued.

Fines are $167.

ICBC says an average of 94 deaths every year are due to distracted driving.

Dr. Lloyd Oppel, physician and chair of the B.C. Medical Association's council on health promotion, said numerous studies have shown that people talking on a phone are four times more likely to be in a car crash than those who do not.

ICBC has also launched six free downloadable ringtones, including Play Hard to Text and Road of No Replies, to remind drivers to keep their phones away while driving.

Statistics

- **Tickets.** Close to 120,000 distracted-driving tickets have been issued since legislation was introduced in 2010. Fines are $167.
- **Deaths.** An average of 94 deaths every year are due to distracted driving, according to the ICBC.
- **Crashes.** Studies have shown that people talking on a phone are four times more likely to be in a car crash than those who do not, according to the B.C. Medical Association's council on health promotion.

1 NEWS

Mobile news

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Labour. New West signs new contract with CUPE

The City of New Westminster is the first in Greater Vancouver to sign a new contract with its CUPE workers, it said Tuesday, but it was not clear how the agreement will influence ongoing negotiations in other municipalities.

Most cities, including New West, abandoned collective regional bargaining through the defunct Metro Vancouver Labour Relations Bureau after signing their last contracts with their CUPE locals five years ago. They expired last Dec. 31.

Under a new four-year agreement, New Westminster city workers will get a retroactive wage increase of 1.25 per cent for this year, 1.75 per cent in the next two years and two per cent in the final year.

"In the past when we sat at the table it was the local, and the city represented by Metro (Vancouver), but this time it was our local and the city directly," said CUPE 387 business agent George Habib, noting New West's new contract received 97 per cent support.

"For years we have requested from the city that when we negotiate with them we negotiate one-on-one, without them having to bring any outsider."

The contract will mean an estimated cumulative tax increase of 2.5 per cent by 2015.

Andy Woodford, acting president of CUPE 1004, the union representing Vancouver's outdoor workers, said he didn't know whether the New West agreement would be used as a point of reference when his local sits down with the city again this fall.

"From the union's perspective, I congratulate them. I think it's great that they've sealed a deal, but I'm not too sure if our employer is going to look at offering us a similar package or not," he said.

He said CUPE members met with city staff on Tuesday to set a schedule for getting back to the bargaining table this fall, and that negotiations could begin before council is back in session on Sept. 18.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Crime. Former reporter gets four years for sexually abusing minor

A former Global TV reporter in Vancouver has been sentenced to four years in prison for sexually assaulting a boy for years, starting when he was in Grade 3.

The sentence for Ron Bencze is far tougher than even the Crown's suggestion to the provincial court of two to three years behind bars.

Crown spokesman Neil MacKenzie said it's clear the sentence was intended to send a message of deterrence. "We've seen the life of a young person severely impacted over a long period of time and we've seen the life of an otherwise apparently normal individual ... totally devastated as well," he said Tuesday.

Bencze has been prohibited for 20 years from attending parks, playgrounds, daycares and other places where children congregate.

"The court concluded that Mr. Bencze was responsible for his conduct and that he brought this on himself," MacKenzie said.

Reaction

"We're setting an example that, you know what? you might have got away with it in the past but we're not going to let you get away with it now."

Chris Davidsen of the children's safety group Put Kids First

Many details of the case cannot be reported due to a publication ban to protect the victim's identity.

Bencze also faced at least eight other charges in connection with the alleged abuse of three minors.

Those charges were stayed after Bencze, a father of three, pleaded guilty to a single count in July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dale MacKay says his first venture, ensemble, was doing well, but opening his second one, eTap, without enough capital put him under. JULIA DILWORTH/METRO FILE

Last call for Top Chef's eateries

Tough market. Proprietor mulling a return to his home province of Saskatchewan

KATE WEBB
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Canada's Top Chef Dale MacKay has learned a hard lesson in business after having to close his two Vancouver restaurants less than a year and a half after becoming a proprietor.

Saturday night marked the last service at his high-end dining room, ensemble, which opened in May 2011. It was also the swan song of ensemble Tap, or eTap, a more casual eatery he opened just seven months later.

"It was hard. It was emotional. I mean, the majority of our staff has been with us for anywhere from two up to five and a half years," MacKay said, referring to the people who followed him over from other restaurants.

The one-time protege of chef Gordon Ramsay said his first mistake was going into eTap underfunded. The bar at Burrard and Smithe was competing with two Earls, two Joeys, two Cactus Clubs and The Keg, all within a two-block radius.

"It was my own ambition that put me in the position that I'm in, and if I wouldn't have opened up eTap, then ensemble would still be alive and kicking and we'd be fine," he said.

Bold ambition

"Ambition is a very strong emotion and I feel that I was doing everything for the right reasons."

Dale MacKay, on the demise of his restaurants, ensemble and ensemble Tap

"Ambition is a very strong emotion and I feel that I was doing everything for the right reasons. It wasn't ego. I had a lot of really good staff and I wanted to give them opportunity."

Ian Tostenson, president and CEO of the B.C. Restaurant and Food Services Association, said it isn't all MacKay's fault: B.C.'s stagnant restaurant market is unforgiving of rookie mistakes, particularly in the hyper-competitive niche of fine dining.

He said before the recession the industry was growing at a rate of seven to eight per cent per year. Now it is one of the lowest-performing sectors in Canada, at 10th place.

"At best, the restaurant industry in this province is flat," he said.

Meanwhile, MacKay says he has already had offers to work as a menu consultant in town. Still, he is considering a move with his son back to his home province of Saskatchewan, where he hopes the market will be a little kinder.

Follow Katie Turner on Twitter @Metro_Katie

George Abbot METRO FILE

More 'harmonious' school year ahead, minister says

Families can look forward to a more positive setting when kids return to school, British Columbia's education minister says.

George Abbott says the lack of limited job action by teachers and a one-year agreement signed this year means school bands and sports teams will play on, and report cards won't be in doubt.

"This year is a little different in a number of ways," Abbott said during a media conference previewing the new school year. "They're not facing Phase 1 job action, which happened to colour the school year (in 2011). I'm hoping this year will be a much more positive, harmonious year."

It remains to be seen how long the positive energy will last. The two sides are expected to resume contract negotiations in March, which will surely run into the provincial election slated for May 14, 2013.

Questions remain whether Abbott, elected as a Liberal MLA in 1996, will be around past the election.

"I've not made a final decision (on seeking re-election)," he admitted.

His announcement will be made in the "immediate days ahead," but Abbott denied that labour relations with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation have left him burned out.

"I've had a great variety of challenging roles over (my career). There's not a ministry I've loved more, notwithstanding the labour-relations issues," he said. "It's not like this has taken a big toll on me."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Crystal Square
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Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
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4841 Delta St.
Scottsdale Centre
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
8700 200th St.
8840 210th St.
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
19638 Fraser Hwy.
19700 Langley Bypass
20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
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32670 Lougheed Hwy.
32555 London Ave.

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Royal City Centre

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Club to give support to those with early-onset Alzheimer's

Fear of the unknown. Socializing may give hope to those affected by this disease

MATT KIELTYKA
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Nita Levy has seen first-hand how a simple social club can make a world of difference.

When her brother-in-law in the United Kingdom was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, Levy's sister's family practically fell apart.

Lost employment, depression and the fear of the unknown took their toll, until her brother-in-law, Paul, found a recreational club built specifically for those under 65 living with a disease that's more common among seniors.

"It made an enormous difference. It was the first respite they could get," said Levy, who lives in Vancouver.

Out of curiosity, she scoured the Lower Mainland for a similar program but couldn't find any clubs that catered to people diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's.

Retired and with time on her hands, Levy — with the help of her husband, local radio pundit Michael Levy — decided to start one herself.

Paul's Club, which opens Sept. 4, is a twice-a-week social club operating out of downtown Vancouver's Hampton Inn, and is specifically for people with early-onset Alzheimer's.

Partially funded by a community grant from Vancity, the club will take members on day trips, build a support network for what can be an isolating disease and foster active lifestyles.

"The average age at adult daycares is 85.3, that's not suitable if you're 53," Levy said. "The need for something like this has always existed."

Dr. Alison Phinney, a researcher in the UBC school of nursing, agrees.

She'll be tracking the progress of Paul's Club members to document how much of a difference an inclusive, social atmosphere can have on someone with early-onset Alzheimer's.

"The sense is that it's happening more and more," said Phinney.

"It's devastating at whatever age, but we want to know how a program like this helps people early on. We know clubs help maintain people at home. They do better, longer. We want to track that."

Michael and Nita Levy are taking a social-club approach to helping people deal with early-onset Alzheimer's. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Still no justice for farm workers, families say

B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair is flanked by families of victims of a 2008 gas-leak tragedy at a Langley mushroom farm as he speaks at a news conference in Vancouver on Tuesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's been almost four years since Tracey Phan's father died at a mushroom farm near Vancouver, one of three workers killed when toxic gas leaked into a small shed on the site.

An investigation by WorkSafe BC, the province's workers' compensation board, later identified a litany of violations that contributed to the deaths, and the farm's owners were fined hundreds of thousands dollars after pleading guilty to breaking occupational health-and-safety laws.

But Phan says she still feels the justice system has failed her father, Michael Phan. No one was ever sent to jail, and even the fines haven't been fully paid by the now-bankrupt farm. "I just feel like I'm going nowhere with all this — I've seen no change at all," Phan told a news conference in Vancouver on Tuesday.

Quoted

"You shouldn't be able to walk away, close up your company, not pay the fine and suffer no consequences when you're grossly negligent in killing workers."

B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair

Phan and other family members representing five separate workplace accidents joined the British Columbia Federation of Labour in a meeting Tuesday with the province's justice and labour ministers. The meeting was designed to highlight what the labour federation describes as lax enforcement of Criminal Code provisions targeting negligent employers.

At the Langley mushroom farm, three workers died and two others received severe neurological injuries on Sept. 5, 2008. The farm and its owners pleaded guilty to failing to educate and supervise their workers and failing to follow proper safety guidelines. They were handed several fines that totalled $350,000, but A1 Mushroom, now bankrupt, has yet to pay, the victims' families say.

Federation president Jim Sinclair says the mushroom-farm accident is just one of numerous examples of the legal system — police, prosecutors, the courts — failing to throw the book at negligent employers in cases where workers are killed or seriously injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burrito bandits

Hamburglar ruled out in McD's theft

On Tuesday morning, three intoxicated women talked themselves into a McDonalds in Esquimalt before the restaurant had opened for the day.

Once they were inside, police allege they stole 11 breakfast burritos and one muffin before making a getaway. Posting on the department's Facebook page, police showed that, while they're investigating the case, they're not above making light of the situation.

"A singular suspect was identified later, but the man identified only as the 'Hamburglar' simply stated, 'That's not my MO coppers,'" the tongue-in-cheek VicPD post read. The three burrito bandits have so far evaded police. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Blaze spreads to area

Suspicious fire at bear feeder's property

Mounties are investigating a suspicious fire at a Christina Lake property where the owner once pleaded guilty to feeding bears that apparently guarded a marijuana plantation. RCMP Staff Sgt. Jim Harrison in southeastern B.C. says a water bomber and a helicopter were used to contain the blaze that spread to the surrounding area on Tuesday night.

Property owner Allan Piche was fined $6,000 in May on two charges of feeding bears. He was arrested in 2010 when police investigating a grow-op found black bears that watched as 1,100 marijuana plants were removed from the property. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legislature finances

Expense-tracking committee meets publicly for 1st time

British Columbia's maligned political committee in charge of managing politicians' expense accounts and legislature finances met publicly for the first time on Tuesday.

The meeting comes after a scathing report by auditor general John Doyle earlier this summer that found such a mess in the legislature's books that it couldn't conclude if money was being misspent. During its meeting, the all-party Legislative Assembly Management Committee agreed to fine-tune a governance structure that makes it easy for citizens to examine the legislature's finances, including expense accounts for politicians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Montreal police make arrests in university clashes

Student protesters. At least 10 arrested for allegedly assaulting officers, security agents at the Universite de Montreal

Police were laying numerous criminal charges in a second day of confrontation with student protesters following the reopening of Quebec's universities.

Striking students at the Universite de Montreal have been attempting to force the cancellation of certain classes to protest back-to-school legislation passed this spring.

As they did on Monday, students clashed with the university's security guards and Montreal police as they reportedly sought to disrupt a film class. Police said they had charged 10 people so far, though the operation was still ongoing Tuesday afternoon.

The student protesters ended up disrupting a psychology class, having mistaken it for the film class they were looking for.

Protesters said they were only disrupting classes in departments where student associations had voted to continue striking over the Liberal government's tuition hike.

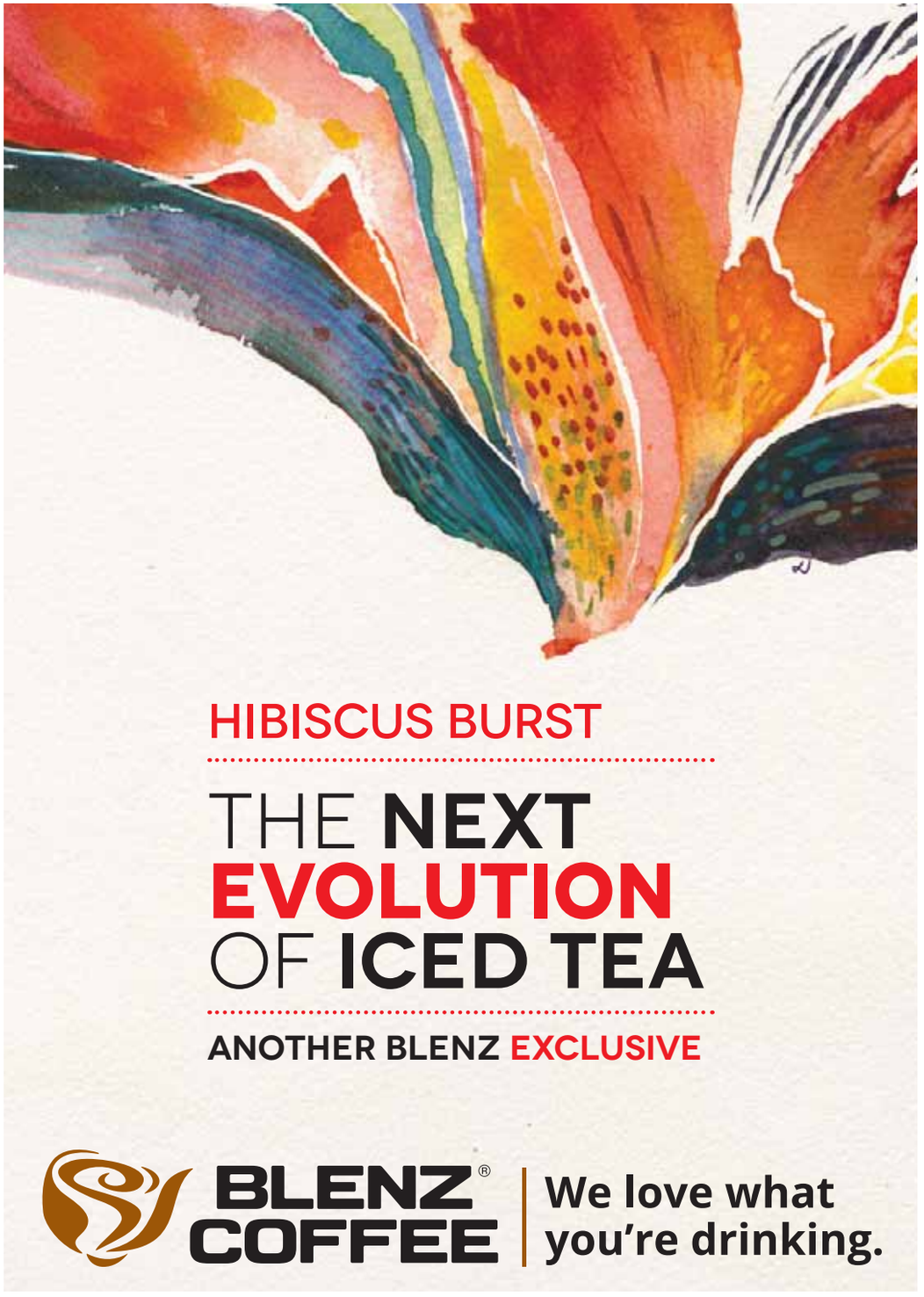
Numerous pundits have suggested Premier Jean Charest might take a hard line with the students during the election campaign, as his best hope of reviving the sagging fortunes of his Liberal party.

But he was sounding relatively conciliatory Tuesday. He simply expressed the hope that Quebec voters would reward his government for its toughness and in the next breath repeated a suggestion that he might be willing to negotiate with students after the election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The riot squad stands by as students block an entrance to the Universite de Montreal on Monday. Some classes are being disrupted during the return to school of Quebec universities as students disobey the back-to-school law.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Annual poll. War of 1812 tough for Canadians to recognize, recall: Survey

There was a war in 1812? Really?

The Harper government has been highlighting a war with our American neighbours 200 years ago, but the relevance of commemorating the event seemed lost on almost all of those who participated in a comprehensive survey for National Defence.

The poll, conducted annually, measures impressions of the Canadian military, its missions, equipment and important events.

Few people who took part in the survey, and in related focus groups, were aware of the anniversary "and even fewer could identify the War of 1812 by name," said the research conducted by Phoenix Strategic Perspectives Inc.

"Typically, no more than one or two participants in each group were aware that this year is the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812, and these people tended to deduce this with simple arithmetic.

"From the year, 1812, they made the logical leap to the War of 1812. Most focus group participants had no prior awareness of this anniversary."

That may be bad news for the Harper government, which has invested as much as $28 million in historical re-enactments, television commercials, museum exhibits, a $60 commemorative coin, and even a mobile app for smartphones.

The report revealed that even in areas where the war was fought — specifically Ontario's Niagara Region — awareness remained foggy.

"In St. Catharines, which is geographically close to where some significant events of the War of 1812 took place, awareness of the 200th anniversary was higher, but still uneven and not widespread," said the document, released Tuesday by the federal government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just calling to ask ...

1,520

The telephone poll of 1,520 people was conducted in February and March this year, while the focus groups were conducted in January and February.

No bars behind bars?

Ottawa targets smuggled jail cellphones

Criminals who run their operations from behind bars using mobile devices could soon be left searching for cell service.

The federal government is asking companies how to stop prisoners from making calls on smuggled cellular and smartphones, tablets and other wireless devices.

Such devices are banned in jails — but evidently, that hasn't stopped prisoners from getting hold of them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Outbreak source

Legionnaires' mystery not easily solved: Experts

Public health investigators trying to find the source of Quebec City's legionnaires' outbreak have a tough job on their hands, experts say.

Dr. Lauri Hicks, who works in the CDC's respiratory-diseases branch, said sometimes an answer can't be found. "In a community outbreak, the number of potential sources can be too numerous to count. It can be like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack," Hicks said in an interview Tuesday from Atlanta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stolen vial of late Pope John Paul II's blood recovered

Three alleged thieves. Priest was carrying relic aboard train going from Rome to a suburb, where it was to be put on display for admirers of the pontiff

A trio of thieves aboard a train stole a priest's backpack containing a vial of the late Pope John Paul II's blood on Tuesday, but police recovered the relic a few hours later, authorities said.

The relic was found in a stand of reeds and grass near the railway station in the seaside town of Marina di Cerveteri, where the thieves had gotten off the train, said state railways police official Domenico Ponziani.

Police said the priest began his journey aboard the train in Rome and was heading to a sanctuary north of the capital where the relic was supposed to be put on display for admirers of the Polish pontiff, who died in 2005.

This undated photo provided by Italian police shows a relic with a vial containing the late Pope John Paul II's blood.

ITALIAN POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When the priest got off the train at Civitavecchia, a port city and rail hub, he realized his backpack was missing. He told police that a man who was travelling aboard the train with two others had distracted him by asking directions, before the trio got off the train a few stops before his, according to Ponziani.

After a few hours of searching, police found the relic, without the backpack, apparently tossed among the reeds, Ponziani said.

The blood was contained in a tiny glass vial inserted into a reliquary in the form of an open book with gilded pages.

Police were searching for the thieves and said it wasn't clear if they had realized what the vial contained and tossed it away, or had planned on coming back later to retrieve the relic from the station's wayside.

John Paul's relics have gone on display in several parts of the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

That's not a wedding cake

In this Aug. 11 family handout photo, Bob Ewing, 32, and Antonie Hodge, 30, both of Arlington, Va., pose at Seneca Rocks in West Virginia. The couple made the 900-foot climb in formal wedding attire.

JOHN EWING/HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentine plan

Shooting seagulls to save whales?

Saving the whales is something Argentines take so seriously that authorities are planning to shoot seagulls that have developed a habit of attacking the huge marine mammals.

Environmentalists say the plan is misguided. They say humans are the real problem, creating so much garbage that the gull population has exploded, endangering the whales.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

63-year career

Flight attendant poised for the record books

A flight attendant is landing in the Guinness Book of World Records after his 63 years of moving about the cabin ended in his home state of Hawaii.

Eighty-three-year-old Ron Akana finished his career as the longest-serving flight attendant for any U.S. carrier over the weekend on a United Airlines flight from Denver to Kauai.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Well, I tried to re-invent the wheel for few weeks until I realized that Steve Martel was there. So I realized that by having somebody who has done all the leg work before. It just speeds up the entire process.
Matthew

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Whitney

I have done as much research as I could on my own, but nothing as intense as what I just experienced. Lots of info that I don't know how I would have found out other than by making the mistakes and finding out the hard way.
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Norwegian PM apologizes for mistakes during massacre

Emergency response. Government promises new plan to deal with crises after 500-page report exposes flaws

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday apologized for flaws in the response to last year's bomb and gun rampage by a right-wing extremist who killed 77 people. And he pledged sweeping measures to improve terror preparedness.

Stoltenberg told lawmakers that the government is adopting an emergency plan to deal with crises, including the establishment of a new emergency-response centre, improving co-operation between rescue teams and a quicker flow of information between officials.

His address to Parliament came in the wake of a 500-page report by a government-appointed commission that exposed shortcomings in the Scandinavian country's crisis preparedness and highlighted police blunders during the July 22, 2011, attacks when Anders Behring Breivik gunned down 69 people on Utoya island after exploding a bomb in central Oslo, killing eight.

Breivik, who was convicted of terror and given a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended for as long as he's considered a threat to society, told the court that he had expected to be killed by police.

Instead, their bungled response allowed him to hunt down panicked teenagers on Utoya for more than an hour before they arrested him.

Also, a boat carrying a SWAT team to Utoya was overloaded and stalled, while Norway's only police helicopter wasn't used because its crew was on vacation.

On Tuesday, Stoltenberg conceded that as head of government he held the highest responsibility and that it had taken that responsibility and led the nation in the aftermath of the massacre.

Still, he conceded that mistakes had been made and listing the main conclusions of the report he said: "For this I apologize."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We can never correct mistakes made in the past, but we can learn from the past."

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg

Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, centre, pays tribute to victims of the twin attacks before a memorial service at Oslo Cathedral on Sunday. EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republicans officially nominate Romney for president

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, with his wife Ann and vice-presidential running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, far right, and Ryan's wife, Janna, during a campaign rally in Manassas, Va., on Aug. 11. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Republicans have nominated former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for president, setting the stage for a close contest against President Barack Obama, as a hurricane was poised to hit the Gulf Coast

In a roll call of states Tuesday, delegates from New Jersey gave Romney enough for the official nod, giving him the prize that eluded him four years ago in his first bid for president. Romney is scheduled to accept his party's nomination in a speech Thursday night.

The political festival aimed at bringing the party together behind Romney and pitching him to a national audience, especially key independent voters, has shrunk to a three-day affair because of the storm. Monday's planned opening was symbolic and over in minutes.

Hurricane Isaac could rain down on a wide swath of the Gulf Coast, including New Orleans, around the same time Romney's wife, Ann, speaks to the convention Tuesday night. Her mission is to show a more personal side of a candidate the Obama campaign has tried to paint as a big-business titan out of touch with the struggles of average Americans.

Polls show Romney and Obama running about even, but each man holds significant leads with voters in important areas that could sway the roughly 10 per cent of Americans who say they haven't settled yet on one man or the other.

Trying to balance leadership with campaigning, Obama delivered an update on Isaac from the White House before leaving on a three-state trip. "Now is not the time to tempt fate," he said. "You need to take this seriously." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economy election

- Obama holds a big lead in polls as the candidate who best relates to the needs of poor and middle-class Americans.
- Romney is more highly regarded as the candidate who can restore the economy. Now he must reach out to more conservative Republicans who are wary of his more moderate views on social issues.

Yasser Arafat

Was Palestinian leader poisoned?

French prosecutors opened a murder inquiry into the death of Yasser Arafat on Tuesday, his widow's lawyer said, after she and a TV investigation raised new questions about whether the Palestinian leader was poisoned.

There have long been rumours in the Arab world that Arafat was poisoned, and a Swiss lab's recent finding of elevated levels of polonium-210 — a rare and highly lethal radioactive substance — on Arafat's clothing has fed those claims. However, the Institute of Radiation Physics said its findings were inconclusive and that only exhuming Arafat's remains could bring possible clarity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yasser Arafat THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine

Jailed opposition leader makes appeal

Lawyers for Ukraine's jailed opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, appealed to Europe's human-rights court Tuesday as her only hope for a fair hearing, accusing the government of rigging the criminal case against her. A lawyer for the government denied any political motive and said her complaints about prison conditions and injuries were groundless.

An architect of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, Tymoshenko has been jailed since her arrest in a courtroom in August 2011, accused of negotiating a corrupt gas deal with Russia when she was prime minister. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yulia Tymoshenko's daughter, Eugenia, listens to one of her mother's lawyers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syrian opposition exiles pen plan for democracy

Skeptics. Rebels and civilians doubt leaders' plan will effect change

In the foreign halls of power, the strategy is clear: Syria's opposition should unite to present an alternative to Bashar Assad's rule — a step France's president says would lead to diplomatic recognition.

As a move toward unity, Syrian exiles from the main opposition Syrian National Council and other groups unveiled a blueprint Tuesday in the German capital of Berlin for transition to a democratic, transparent society free of religious and ethnic favouritism.

But rebels and civilians in the bomb-shattered Syrian town of Azaz near the Turkish border view such talk as hollow. They are deeply skeptical of all exiled leaders and believe what really matters is their fight on the ground to overthrow the regime.

"They have never come up with a united position that will save the people," said Fadi Hajji, 25, who had been camped out along the Syrian border in Turkey with his wife and two infant daughters for five days. "All they are good at is arguing. They don't represent anyone here and they don't help."

With no end to the carnage in sight, French President Francois Hollande called on the Syrian opposition Monday to form a provisional government, saying France would recognize and support it.

Hollande's statement is believed to be the first of its kind.

Many in the SNC have been hoping the world community would impose a safe zone along the Turkish border, possibly extending to a no-fly zone over at least some areas, and would more openly supply weapons and ammunition to rebels. The disparate groups are also each hoping for support in any power struggle that might follow a collapse of the Assad regime.

A girl, who fled her home with her family due to fighting between Syrian government troops and rebels, plays with her little sister, as she and her family take refuge at a border crossing Tuesday. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the war inside Syria appears to be grinding to a stalemate, so too is the political struggle. Most foreign powers want to see unity before giving support but the opposition is unable or unwilling to put aside their differences and unite.

Absent a united opposition, the dilemma facing the United States and its Western allies is uncertainty over who inside Syria might emerge with real power after Assad.

Their fear is that the collapse of the four-decade regime ruled by the Assads — Bashar succeeded his father Hafez 12 years ago — could unleash a fierce power struggle in which al-Qaida and other Islamic extremists could gain a foothold. With Syria bordering NATO member Turkey, combustible Lebanon with its powerful Hezbollah militia, unstable Iraq, and a nervous Israel with which it has a territorial dispute over the Golan Heights, it's a daunting prospect. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

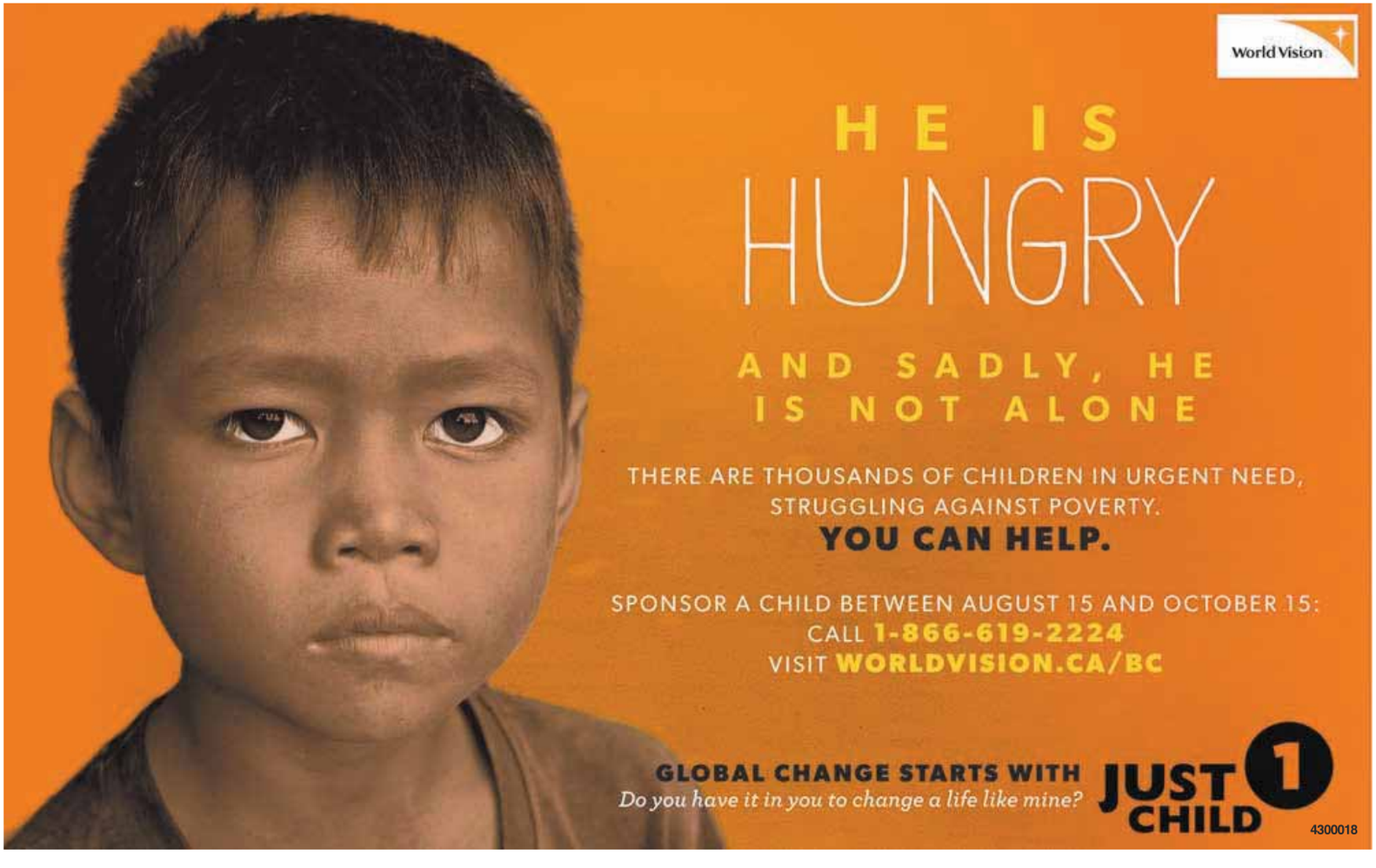
Infighting

United they'll stand?

Since the uprising began in March last year, Syria's opposition has been plagued by divisions and infighting. In addition to the SNC, several other opposition groups are known to be making similar plans for a provisional government, including a new alliance headed by veteran opposition figure Haitham Maleh.

The strains within the opposition were also evident on Tuesday when the Paris-based SNC spokeswoman Bassma Kodmani, a founding member of the group, resigned. She said the SNC had veered off course. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians, who fled their homes due to fighting asking the Turkish government to let them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4300018

between the Syrian army and the rebels, shout slogans as they march toward the Turkish side of the border, during a protest enter their refugee camps, at a border crossing near the Syrian town of Azaz Tuesday. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jordan. 1,200 defectors housed in secret compound

In an isolated stretch of Jordanian desert, a heavily guarded, undisclosed compound houses 1,200 senior police and army officers who defected from nearby Syria.

The men live in trailers with fans but no air conditioning, surrounded by barbed wire, and they pass their days browsing the Internet and watching TV for news of Syria's civil war, longing to join the fight — but they are largely unable to leave.

The Jordanian military runs the camp near a site formerly used by the U.S. to train some of its forces for the war in Iraq, and the defectors are debriefed by intelligence agents. Access to them is tightly restricted for their own protection. They are even separated from their families, who live outside the camp near the northern border city of Mafraq but can get special police permits to visit.

The defectors in the camp are allowed to communicate with the rebel Free Syrian Army in Jordan and abroad, both in person and through telephone and Internet communications, but do not have what is considered valuable intelligence, according to Jordanian security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not allowed to make press statements.

The facility is a sign of Jordan's growing role as a quiet supporter of Syria's opposition. But at the same time, Jordan wants to avoid aggravating tensions with its more powerful northern neighbour, fearing that President Bashar Assad may remain in power.

There are more than 160,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan, and their number is increasing by the thousands every day. About 8,000 live in a newly set up camp on the border, while the rest are scattered across Jordan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's good to be here, away from the tension and war, but this is not what I had hoped for."

Khaldoun (no last name given), former Syrian army brigadier, on being unable to join the rebels on the frontlines

Cyprus

7 Syrians aboard sunk boat dead: UN

The UN refugee agency says seven Syrians who were aboard a fishing boat that sank off the north coast of Cyprus late last week have died.

Agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming says four men, one woman, and two children died. She says there also were two survivors who were later arrested on smuggling charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transitional government

U.S. gets flak for saying too soon

The head of the main Syrian opposition group seeking to oust President Bashar Assad criticized U.S. officials Tuesday for saying it was premature to speak about a transitional Syrian government.

The comments came on the same day a car bomb ripped through a Damascus suburb, killing 12 people, according to Syria's official state news agency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Waves crash over a causeway in Navarre, Fla., on Tuesday as Isaac approached the U.S. coast. NICK TOMECEK/NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Take this seriously,’ Obama warns as hurricane roars in

A roiling tropical storm with the innocent-sounding name of Isaac turned into a potential mass killer late Tuesday.

Isaac became a full-blown Category 1 hurricane as it churned its way toward the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Tens of thousands of people were told to leave low-lying areas, including 700 patients of Louisiana nursing homes.

And New Orleans waited nervously behind flood-defence levees strengthened after devastating hurricane Katrina struck exactly seven years ago.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Isaac, with 128 km/h winds, had gained strength as it moved over the warm, open waters of the Gulf.

It was expected to reach the swampy coast of southeast Louisiana by early Wednesday.

“Now is not the time to tempt fate,” U.S. President Barack Obama warned from the White House.

“You need to take this seriously.”

But many residents along the Gulf Coast opted to ride it out in shelters or at their homes. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu did not activate a mandatory evacuation for Isaac.

Instead, officials urged residents to hunker down and make do with the supplies they had.

“We don’t expect a Katrina-like event, but remember there are things about a Category 1 storm that can kill you,” Landrieu said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New anguish over movie massacre

Fundraising furor. Organizers trading on the memory of ‘our murdered loved ones,’ emotional family members allege

Caren and Tom Teves, who lost a son in the shooting, embrace at a news conference Tuesday. CHRIS SCHNEIDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anguished family members of victims of the Colorado movie massacre lashed out at organizers of a fundraising campaign Tuesday.

They claimed more than $5 million has been collected “using pictures and names of our murdered loved ones.”

But so far, they said, no more than $5,000 has been given to each of the families facing bills for medical treatment and other expenses.

The families also said they’ve been shut out of decisions on how the money should be spent and that fundraisers have been unresponsive to their questions and suggestions.

“When you generate donations for a fund called ‘the Aurora Victim Relief Fund’ using pictures and names of our murdered loved ones, it would stand to reason the fund is for victims of the Aurora shooting,” said Tom Teves, whose son Alex was one of 12 people killed in the July 20 shootings.

Bullets flew at a midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises at an Aurora movie theatre. Fifty-eight people were wounded.

At an emotional news conference, Teves demanded the fundraisers give the victims and their families a say in how the money is used.

The suspect in the shootings, 24-year-old James Eagan Holmes, is charged with multiple counts of murder and attempted murder. The next hearing in the case is Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Report’s finding

Temple killer had alcohol problems

The man who killed six Sikhs at a Wisconsin temple had a history of alcohol problems, says a report released Tuesday. Wade Michael Page, 40, died after shooting himself in the head. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camouflage suit

‘Fake Bigfoot’ killed by cars

A man dressed in a military-style ghillie suit who was apparently trying to provoke reports of a Bigfoot sighting was struck by two cars and killed in northwest Montana.

Ghillie suits are a type of full-body clothing made to resemble heavy foliage and used to camouflage military snipers.

Randy Lee Tenley, 44, of Kalispell “was trying to make people think he was Sasquatch so people would call in a Sasquatch sighting,” Trooper Jim Schneider was reported as saying.

“I haven’t seen or heard of anything like this before. Obviously, his suit made it difficult for people to see him.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Midair ruckus

Charge lifted for senator’s wife

The wife of Manitoba Sen. Rod Zimmer is no longer charged with endangering the safety of an aircraft.

But Maygan Sensenberger, 23, is still accused of causing a disturbance and uttering threats on a flight. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buyer shocked

Storage unit hid body parts

Brains, hearts and lungs of about 100 people have been found in a Florida storage unit. Officials say it belonged to a former medical examiner. Someone bought the unit last week and noticed a foul smell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Samsung facing a rethink following Apple patent verdict

'Fast follower.' South Korean tech giant must now figure out how to tackle the challenge of moving from imitation to innovation

A U.S. jury's $1-billion US verdict against Samsung for what rival Apple claimed was the illegal copying of its iPhone and iPad designs signals a turning point for the South Korean electronics giant known for its prowess in adapting the innovations of others and nimbly executing production.

The verdict not only jolted the world of global gadgetry but also likely sparked some soul-searching in Suwon, South Korea, where the family-run Samsung conglomerate is based.

The world's top seller of smartphones finds itself in the post-iPhone reality, where the decades-long practice of industry mimicry now can mean a bruising legal challenge.

And so Samsung finds itself in a position of having to recreate itself as an innovator, not an imitator. But the switch, experts say, will be much more challenging and time-consuming than the shortcuts Samsung used to take.

Samsung has long been regarded as a "fast follower" — imitating or licensing technologies and then competing by lowering costs, improving quality and adding functions.

When Apple released its cutting-edge iPhone in 2007, Samsung employees were likely too pressed to catch up to scrutinize possible patent encroachments. South Korea's idea of intellectual property is also less strict than that in the U.S., and speedy execution is highly valued at Samsung.

Still, Samsung outsold Apple this year in smartphones by offering more variety, including low-end phones for price-conscious consumers.

In the past few years, Samsung has been investing in design, not only in mobile phones, but also in TVs and home appliances. But the results were not near the level of revolutionizing the look and feel of its products or the way consumers interact with technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strict hierarchy

- Samsung's top-heavy command structure centres on the founding family. At the apex is 70-year-old Lee Kun-hee, who inherited the mantle from his father, Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull, in 1987.
- The strict hierarchy has enabled speedy and bold investment and swift execution. That, plus the ability to build on the innovations of others, has helped Samsung become the world's largest maker of televisions, memory chips, liquid crystal display panels and now smartphones.

Lumber. B.C. bucks downturn in wood prices

British Columbia bucked a global trend as strong demand from Asia and the United States boosted sawlog prices in the second quarter.

Global prices fell for the fourth consecutive three-month quarter and were 11.5 per cent lower than a year ago, industry publication Wood Resource Quarterly said Tuesday.

The only exceptions were Canada's key wood-producing region and the western U.S. No specific price increases were disclosed.

Canadian producers have been helped by a 13 per cent increase in U.S. lumber consumption in May, marking the highest month of May since 2008. Sprucepine-fir prices in Canada have increased by about 30 per cent, the publication said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.24¢ US (+0.31¢)

TSX 12,009.9 (-38.92)

OIL $96.33 US (+86¢)

GOLD $1,669.70 US (-$5.90)

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WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO GIVE SMARTPHONES TO STUPID PEOPLE?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

It happened overnight.

One day, people went about their business, sharp and alert, and then, the very next day, the streets and roads were filled with slack-jawed zombies peering into little screens, tapping compulsively on little keypads, oblivious to anyone and anything around them.

Smartphones have almost instantly turned us all, well, many of us anyway, into stupid people.

People who drive into each other at high speeds because they're too busy tapping LOL into their smartphones.

People who try to order lunch in a busy lineup at the same time agreeing with their girlfriend (who is somewhere else) that all men are, like, total potting soil.

People who block street corners and doorways and elevators, breathing through their mouths, inert.

People who drop their smartphones into the urinal while updating their fantasy football roster.

People who go out for dinner and text each other across the table.

I could go on. In fact, I will. There's even a Facebook page called Smart Phones, Stupid People. And they're not kidding.

Arrive alive: Think and drive

There's a story about a stupid man who was so busy downloading an app on his smartphone while he was driving that it wasn't until he got home, parked his van in the driveway and police came to his door that he learned he had run over a 300-pound man.

There's a story about a stupid man who was so busy downloading an app on his smartphone while he was driving that it wasn't until he got home, parked his van in the driveway and police came to his door that he learned he had run over a 300-pound man.

There's a photo of a truck with a message on the back: "Don't text and drive: Yours may be on the next shipment: Batesville Casket Company."

There's a story about how people with smartphones have become such a danger to themselves and others in Fort Lee, N.J., that the local police chief has officers ticketing people on the spot. He had to do something: There have already been 23 text-related pedestrian accidents since January.

And, finally, there's the story of the Stupidest Person Ever. A college student (named Chance, LOL) from Texas was driving when he texted to his friend: "I need to quit texting, because I could die in a car accident." He then immediately drove off a bridge and over a cliff. He suffered a broken neck, a crushed face, a fractured skull, and brain trauma. How could that be? He has no brain.

Believe it or not, distracted smartphone-related driving led to 3,000 road fatalities in the U.S. last year. If this keeps up, an entire generation will go over the cliff along with Chance.

At that point, the meek and a few others who can't afford a smartphone shall inherit the Earth.

At last, IMHO.

Texting while driving is nothing to LOL about. YOUTUBE SCREEN GRAB

Game of cat and mouse continues

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mouse play

British PM's cat snatches a mouse

Larry, the Downing Street cat, is seen on patrol.

The tabby recruited by British Prime Minister David Cameron to ward off mice at his official residence, 10 Downing Street, has recorded his first kill in months. A Downing Street spokeswoman says a staff member found the five-year-old Chief Mouser Tuesday sitting outside the famous black door with a dead mouse. Larry, a former stray, has been known to take a relaxed approach to his duties. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Cameron

Heathrow expansion

Kill made at same time as MP's mouse call

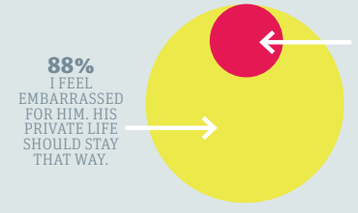
The timing couldn't have been better: On Tuesday, a member of Cameron's Conservative Party was questioning whether the leader was "man or mouse" over his opposition to the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

Tim Yeo is pressing Cameron to change his mind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What's your opinion on the Prince Harry nude-photo scandal?


88%
I FEEL EMBARRASSED FOR HIM. HIS PRIVATE LIFE SHOULD STAY THAT WAY.
12%
IT'S A POSITIVE FOR HIM. IT REINFORCES HIS FUN-LOVING IMAGE.
0%
IT'S SHAMEFUL. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A RESPECTED PUBLIC FIGURE.

Twitter

@ClaySt Thomas: New report: owning a home in Vancouver takes 91% of your pre-tax income. Who needs to eat, dress, or the internet as long as you have a roof?

@jrburke: One of my favorite things about Vancouver: it is not unusual for people to shout "thank you" to the bus driver as they exit.

@TheOnlyDJQualls: A week from today, Im heading back to Vancouver to play with my buddies @jarpad and Jensen. Some exciting stuff in that ep. Can't wait.

@NaomiAKlein: I'll be appearing at this terrific "Save the Salish Sea" festival in Vancouver on Sept 2 http://bit.ly/Nk7Hhw - first event since baby!

@ArtOfDying: Drinking tequila - off to see Metallica. I think that's a pretty good combination. ;) –Jonny

metro

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SCENE 2

A young girl starts displaying disturbing behaviour after purchasing an old artifact in The Possession. HANDOUT

Scary? Yes, but don't call it a horror movie, actor says

The Possession.
New film more of a character piece, says Jeffrey Dean Morgan

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Jeffrey Dean Morgan is all for you getting scared watching The Possession — about a young girl who starts displaying disturbing behaviour after her family purchases an old Hebrew artifact — but it's not a horror movie, he swears.

Morgan, who plays the girl's beleaguered dad in the film, makes his pitch for The Possession as a character piece and offers some insight on why audiences can't get enough of exorcisms.

What was the initial draw for you for this project?
Everybody wants to label this as a horror movie, and I never considered it to be a horror movie going in.

It actually had a story to it, and I'm so used to horror movies this day and age being found footage, shaky camera, just a f—ing visual onslaught of gore.

This movie actually had a story and it reminded me of the movies that I thought were scary — The Exorcist and Rosemary's Baby and The Omen — where you could become invested in those characters. This had that. (I play) a recently divorced guy trying to be a good father and sort of failing miserably with two teenage daughters.

So you've got a family that's kind of been troubled at the heart of this. And then of course there's demons inside people, so there's that (laughs).

But it's really, I think, a character piece. I think it really gives the opportunity for us to act and for (director) Ole (Bornedal) to direct, and that helps a great deal when doing this kind of thing.

Why do you think demonic possession continues to be such a popular topic for horror films?
Yeah, I mean people go see these movies, for sure. I don't know, I didn't ever really put it together but it's always the kid who gets possessed, and the parents are trying to, I guess, save the day — with a priest or a rabbi, I guess, in our case.

But I just think a child getting possessed is... what is more horrific for a parent than that? And I think that's something that maybe people can somehow relate to. And what 11-year-old girl isn't possessed?

Plus so many of them purport to be based on true stories.
There is that element of it could happen, maybe. I'm a skeptic when it comes to all that paranormal activity and craziness and possession, but in doing the little bit of research that I did for this movie, there's some scary s— out there. You can see it on the Internet, actual exorcisms and stuff that have happened.

I've got to wonder how that is there. I mean, it doesn't look staged to me, and it's superscary. But I think there's that element that this could be a real thing. And people argue that it absolutely is a real thing, and I think because of that it's interesting subject matter.

Inanimate objects can be evil too

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

We can all imagine the fear that comes along with being chased by a werewolf. Or waking up to find Dracula staring down at you. They are living, breathing (or in Drac's case, dead and not so breathing, but you get the idea) embodiments of evil. But how about inanimate objects? Have you ever been terrified of a lamp? Or creeped out by a tire?

In this weekend's The Possession, a Dybbuk Box purchased at a yard sale brings misfortune to everyone who comes in contact with it.

It's not the first time that the movies have imbued an inert object with evil powers.

There have been loads of haunted houses in the movies. In most of them, however, the house is merely a vessel for a spirit or some unseen entity that makes its presence know by making the walls bleed or randomly slamming doors. Rarer is the house that is actually evil.

Stephen King wrote about a house that eats people in the third installment of his Dark Tower series. On screen Robert Zemeckis and Steven Spielberg visualized the idea in the appropriately titled Monster House.

In this animated movie three teens figure out the house across the street is a man-eating monster.

By the time they got around to the fourth installment of the most famous haunted house series, the Amityville Horror, filmmakers had to figure out a new plotline apart from the tired "new owners move in to the house, get freaked out leave," storyline. In The Amityville Horror: The Evil Escapes, a cursed lamp causes all sorts of trouble when it is shipped from the evil Long Island house to a Californian mansion.

Much weirder is Rubber, the story of a killer tire — yes, you read that right — with psychokinetic powers — think Carrie with treads — who terrorizes the American southwest. It's an absurdist tract on how and why we watch movies, what entertainment is and the movie business, among other things. But frankly, mostly it's about a tire rolling around the desert and while there is something kind of hypnotic about watching the tire on its murderous journey — think Natural Born Killers but round and rubbery — that doesn't mean Rubber is a good movie.

Finally, think bed bugs are bad? How about a hungry bed? The title of this one sums it up: Death Bed: The Bed that Eats.

On the web

The Walking Dead' actor Scott Wilson arrested in Georgia on drunken driving charge

Movie reviews

Lawless

Director. John Hillcoat

Stars. Tom Hardy, Shia LaBeouf, Guy Pearce

Lawless sees director John Hillcoat once more teaming up with cult gothic rock god Nick Cave for a violent, meandering, macho shoot em up. The results are less weighty than their previous Cave penned collaborations, Ghosts of the Civil Dead and The Proposition, in fact, despite the ample bloodshed and agony on screen, Lawless is actually kind of a — gasp — good time.

Not words you'd expect from the man who gave us the bleaker than death adaptation of The Road but the film, which sees Shia LaBeouf as a gentle younger sibling to a fierce brood of prohibition era moonshiners is painted with such broad, arch strokes and is filled with such buoyant roots music — the best soundtrack of its kind since O Brother Where Art Thou — that only the hardest heart wouldn't smile. There's equally fantastic performances from LaBeouf, Hillcoat regular Guy Pierce (in pure Snidely Whiplash ultra-villain role) and especially, the imposing Tom Hardy, re-channelling his Bane character as a hardened, but gallant, thug with a moral code. Even Hardy's Dark Knight cast mate Gary Oldman shows up and steals scenes as a psycho tommy gun wielding gangster. Mixing action and even western tropes with fine, sepia soaked period detail and detours of visual and aural poetry, Lawless is an immersive joy and one of the finest films of the year. CHRIS ALEXANDER

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Wed-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:25

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport
Wed-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam
Wed-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15

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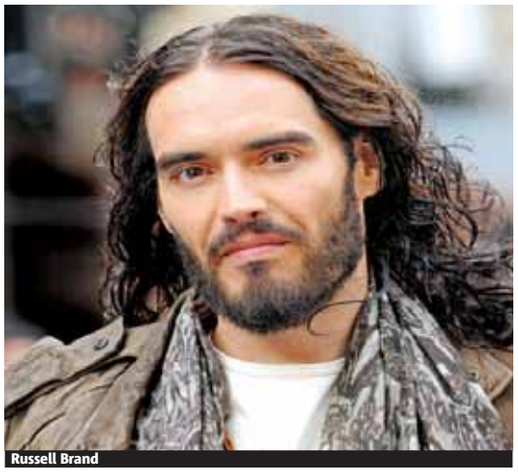
Russell Brand

Brand linked to fellow Brit Ginger Spice

A month after finalizing his divorce from American pop star Katy Perry, British comedian Russell Brand is apparently sticking closer to home. Brand is reportedly dating Spice Girls member Geri Halliwell, according to the Sun.

Brand and Halliwell, who hung out during the Olympics closing ceremony earlier this month, were recently spotted out and about at Hampton Court Palace along with Halliwell's 6-year-old daughter. Halliwell, for her part, admits there's a new special someone in her life — but she's leaving it at that. "I'm not going into details," she tells Hello! Magazine. "Right now there's nothing serious."

Royal video being shopped online: Report

Prince Harry's headaches over his naked romp in Las Vegas earlier this month may not be over, as Radar Online is reporting that a video of the incident could end up online shortly — for the right price.

"There is video of Harry partying naked with women in the Las Vegas hotel room. There have been some very quiet inquiries to see how much the video is worth," a source says. "The video has not been shopped around yet. With all the attention the photos got, the people with the video know it could be worth a fortune."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lohan a suspect in theft — yes, again

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Although her name was initially cleared, Lindsay Lohan is now officially a suspect in the theft of $100,000 worth of valuables from a Hollywood home.

Last week, police were called to the home of Sam Magid after Lohan, her assistant and others spent the night partying.

Here's where things get messy, even in Lohan's world: Magid claimed that insanely expensive sunglasses and watches were missing, but later recanted his story.

Then, on Monday, two of Lohan's friends — including Andrew Knight, son of hip-hop mogul Suge Knight — stopped by Magid's house with some of the stolen items that they claim Lohan gave them, reports TMZ.

What's Lohan have to say for herself? Quite a bit.

According to TMZ, she claims that she was in an Ambien fog that night but does remember hiding jewelry, watches and Tiffany silverware out of fear they would be stolen by other guests.

As for anything that actually did walk off, she blames Knight.

Lindsay's father, Michael Lohan, is calling the accusation against his daughter an unfair "witch hunt" — presumably because he forgot she stole a necklace from a high-end jewelry store last year, resulting in a months-long, soul-crushing courtroom circus.

Must be nice, Michael. Must be nice.

Amanda Bynes

Bynes' hit-and-run cases under police scrutiny

Amanda Bynes' most recent hit-and-run incident has led investigators to renew their interest in a similar accident involving the actress from earlier this year, according to Hollyscoop. "Both of Amanda Bynes' hit and run cases are under review right now. I cannot say that we re-opened the original hit-and-run case because it was never closed," a spokesman for the L.A. City Attorney's office tells the website. "We are reviewing both cases with the LAPD and CHP, so both incidents are under investigation at this time. She has not been charged with anything as of yet. No dates have been set for arraignment or anything else with Amanda at this time." Both incidents — one in April and one in August — involve Bynes reportedly rear-ending another driver and then fleeing the scene.

Twitter

@Rosie
Oh my god I lost 10 lbs already eating plant based food !!!

@1capplegate
I want my daughter to live a normal life I want her to feel free to be who she wants, so paparazzi stop taking pics of her! Enough !

@MissKellyO
Looking forward to date night tonight we have decided on sushi!

@lindsaylohan
All of this negative press is BS.... Whenever I'm doing great, people fabricate lies. It's such a shame. I'm just sayin' xo

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Enjoying rum, fish always better in the Caribbean

Barbados. Ever-popular tropical destination offers local, exotic and exciting food and drink

GIZELLE LAU
life@metronews.ca

As far as Caribbean islands go, there are few that are as robust in their food, wine and rum offerings than Barbados. From the weekly fish fry and rum shacks strewn along the roads across the island to truly fine rum and upscale restaurants, there's much to be enjoyed on the scenic island of Barbados.

For those looking to try the island's traditional fare, head to the St Lawrence Gap's many restaurants where you can get a taste of dishes like cou cou with flying fish, the national dish of Barbados, officially. Unofficially, there's also favourites like macaroni pie, Bajan pepper sauce and Toronto chef Mark McEwan's pick: "fish sandwiches" or fish cutters, best experienced at Cuz's Fish Stand on Pebbles Beach near Bridgetown.

Then, there's the famous fish fry. At Oistins on Friday and Saturday nights, you can get the day's catch fried or grilled, with a beer in hand and island music in the air.

"Instead of going to a museum like you would in Europe, you've got to get to Oistins for a fish fry when you're in Barbados," says celeb chef Marcus Samuelsson, who, like McEwan can be seen on the island during the Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival.

Rum aficionados will not want to miss a visit to Mount Gay Distilleries, home to the world's oldest rum brand (since 1703), Mount Gay Rum.

For a more artisanal rum, visit St. Nicholas Abbey, home to an original 17th century plantation home and distillery where they sell an eight-year and 12-year old rum. Better yet, when you bring the bottle back to the distillery, they'll fill it up for you half price.

If you're vying for one final meal on the island, head to The Cliff Restaurant. Overlooking a private cove, watch the sun go down on the beachside patio with cocktail in hand while the wave comes in under the glow of romantic lit torches, setting the stage for one of the finest upscale wining and dining experiences on the island.

Want to spend time rubbing elbows with celebrity chefs while noshing on the best food, wine and rum Barbados has to offer?

Then look no further than the Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival.

This year, the festival will take place November 16 to 19, 2012 with celebrity chef events, cooking demonstrations, tastings and tours of rum distilleries, just to name a few.

If you go...

- **Fly.** Air Canada and WestJet both offer direct flights from major Canadian cities to Bridgetown, Barbados
- **Stay.** Elegant Hotels in Barbados offers five distinct hotels including the Colony Club, Crystal Cove, Tamarind, Turtle Beach and The House resorts, each offering unique style of accommodation suited for solo travellers, couples or families.
- **Go to.** visitbarbados.org or foodwinerum.com for more.

On the web

Berlin to mark centenary of famed Nefertiti bust's find with show of works from Egypt site.

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Virginia craft brewers raise their glasses to burgeoning beer market

Drinkers kept hopping. Over the last five years, the state's small beermakers have forged quite the attraction for thirsty tourists

From Virginia's industrial outskirts of Richmond to the pastoral landscapes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond, an army of artisans are turning their love of beer into business.

Armed with an arsenal of barley and hops, these craft brewers are looking to cash in on a growing interest in all things local, including alcoholic libations.

And recent changes to state law are helping craft brewers grow their business.

With about 40 craft breweries in the state, Virginia pales in comparison to U.S. states like California, Oregon and Colorado. But craft brewers in Virginia hope to build on the success of the state's wine industry, which has seen steady growth in recent years and continues to attract tourists seeking to enjoy the concoctions made by Virginia craftsmen.

For the first time, the state has designated August as Virginia Craft Beer month, highlighted by events at breweries, including a statewide festival and competition Saturday at the award-winning Devils Backbone Brewing Company in Nelson County.

"It's exciting right now. ... There's been a real movement in the last five years," said Mike Killelea, chairman of the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild and a brewer at Richmond's Legend Brewing Co. for more than five years.

"Within about two years, you're probably going to have a brewery within a short drive of pretty much every citizen in the commonwealth. ... My hope is that people become more aware of the great beer scene here."

"Craft brewers have become known for their innovation, so they take old world beer styles and have pushed the envelope — packing more flavour ... and doing modern twists on classic styles that often now have created completely different new world styles of beer," said Julia Herz, the craft beer program director at the Brewers Association.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quick facts

- **$9 billion.** The size of the craft brewery industry in the United States.
- **104,000.** The number of jobs craft brewers provide.
- **11.5 million.** The number of barrels of beer craft brewers sold in 2011.

Virginia artisans are turning their love of beer into a booming business. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Montenegro's allure comes from its contrast of landscapes — mountains, beaches and turquoise waters.

Luxury digs and a marina have upgraded Montenegro into an A-lister destination.

Montenegro — where 007 likes to play cards

All that glitters. Does tiny Balkan state live up to its glam portrayal in Casino Royale?

A newly developed luxury resort village called Porto Montenegro may finally be helping Montenegro's image catch up with its overly glamorous portrayal in the 2006 James Bond film Casino Royale.

Porto Montenegro — sometimes called the Monte Carlo of the Adriatic — has upgraded this tiny Balkan state from a favourite destination of average Russian and Serbian tourists to a mecca for some of the world's wealthiest people.

Located on the southern corner of the Adriatic Sea, the destination features a huge black-and-white-tiled infinity pool with a panoramic view of the turquoise-coloured water and rocky mountain peaks, Venetian-style waterfront luxury homes, a vibrant nautical village with top brand shops and restaurants, and a vast super-yacht marina for some of the finest boats afloat.

The marina — once a navy port and a dry dock for Yugoslav and Soviet warships — opened about a year ago and is a brainchild of Canadian billionaire Peter Munk, who wanted to invest in a less-congested French Riviera-style resort on a relatively remote and undiscovered European territory.

"We really see ourselves as playing a part in the renaissance of Montenegro's tourism, in particular in terms of the marina," said Matt Morley, brand and marketing manager of the marina.

"We get a real mix of customers visiting our marina," he said. "Of course, there is the A-list, the super-wealthy. One of the things that we offer is a greater sense of privacy than in a lot of other marinas out there, in the south of France or Sardinia, Italy, for example."

Locals like to brag about scenes from the Bond film, which showed their tiny, poor Balkan state as a neat and romantic place with modern trains and ornate infrastructure. Ironically, says Morley, "the film wasn't actually filmed in Montenegro, but there's a definite sense of mystique still, I think, about Montenegro."

Morley said a casino under construction in Porto Montenegro might even be named Casino Royale.

Much of Montenegro's allure comes from its shining mix of colours: aquamarine waters, green pine-forested mountains, blazing blue skies and white pebble beaches.

But if Montenegro is the jewel of the Adriatic, it's a rough and unpolished one. Its natural beauty is best seen from a plane landing at the seaside airport of Tivat, a 10-minute drive from Porto Montenegro.

Once on the ground, a different reality emerges: Visitors can be put off by narrow, bumpy and traffic-jammed roads lined with huge and often unfinished construction sites. Old communist-era decaying hotels dot the spectacular landscape. And the beaches can be overcrowded during the peak of the summer season in July and August.

In some ways, Porto Montenegro is trying to restore the exclusivity of an earlier era. Sveti Stefan is a tiny peninsula with sun-bleached limestone homes that turned from a fishing village to a luxury hotel complex in the 1960s, attracting famous visitors like Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Its 15th-century stone walls, narrow streets and tiny church were destroyed by an earthquake

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The Porto Montenegro resort is located next to the town of Tivat. PHOTOS: MARKO DROBNJAKOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in 1979, then carefully reconstructed bit by bit. Sveti Stefan lost much of its allure during the Balkan Wars, but today, its red tile roofs shimmer in the sunlight with oleander, bougainvillea and palms providing green and shade. Next to Sveti Stefan, the Queen's Beach offers peace and privacy for $92 per day per person.

Next door is Budva, Montenegro's biggest tourist resort, featuring a quaint, stonewalled Old Town with its warren of little lanes lined with shops and restaurants buzzing with activity. With its intact city walls, narrow streets and seaside cafes, Budva can seem like a vest-pocket version of Dubrovnik, the renowned Croatian resort on the border with Montenegro. Some of Montenegro's best restaurants — offering hors-d'oeuvres of traditional extra-dry ham and goat cheese dipped in olive oil — are located in Budva and in the neighbouring fishing village of Bigovo.

"Now we're getting these richer tourists on yachts," said Nikola Lazarevic, owner of the Grispolis restaurant in Bigovo, perched on a deep sea bay nestled between pristine hills covered with ancient olive trees.

"More money spent, better for us," Lazarevic said as he served delicious grilled fish spiced with garlic and parsley, coupled with famous Montenegrin Vranac red wine.

Such a meal together with the ham hors-d'oeuvre and the must-have "loza" (a strong brandy made from grapes) as a before-dinner drink, cost up $75 per person, without a customary 10 per cent tip. Even though Montenegro is not a European Union country, the euro is its official currency.

Since it split from much larger Serbia in 2006, Montenegro experienced a real estate boom, with mostly Russians and Britons investing en masse into new hotels, tourist resorts or even complete new villages.

"I think it's one of the most marvellous places in the world," said Dmitry Krysin, a plastic surgeon from Moscow. "I used to travel a lot and practically I can't see anything more positive, relaxing, cheap, where to stay and enjoy."

As cheap eats, the favourite Balkan fast food — cevapcici— small spiced minced meat sausages, and a pint of beer runs about $10. A full dinner of local delicacies such as octopus salad and stuffed squid will cost around $43, including a local wine.

Serbian, or Montenegrin as it is now called after the split from Serbia, is the local language. English, Italian and German are spoken by many locals, especially restaurant waiters and hotel staff.

Buses for the famous Croatian resort of Dubrovnik leave Budva every day. Daylong boat excursions from Budva to Sveti Stefan cost about $12. A day-trip by bus to Mount Lovcen via Njegusi, home of the best dried ham and goat cheese dipped in olive oil in the Balkans, is a must. The Montenegro Tourist agency provides day-trips to a wide array of sights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Getting there.** Montenegro Airlines flies to the capital of Podgorica and to the Adriatic Sea airport of Tivat from European cities including Paris, Rome, Budapest, Zurich, Moscow, Frankfurt, Istanbul and Ljubljana. JAT Airways, the Serbian national airline, flies to Belgrade from most European capitals, and has several flights a day from Belgrade to Podgorica and Tivat. A return ticket for a 45-minute flight from Belgrade costs $124.
- **Lodging.** A night in a hotel with breakfast can start from $62 for a double room, but new hotels on the Adriatic coast start from about $124 per night for a double room. Private owners offer a double room starting from $24.

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Reach new heights of snacking sophistication with Grilled Pita Pizza

Seven is the magic number for making this Grilled Mushroom Pita Pizza. That's the number of ingredients you'll need to take snacking to a new level of sophistication.

Pita bread with mushrooms make these individual grilled pizzas a delightful lunch or snack.

If the mushrooms are too long for the pitas, thickly slice the mushrooms on a cutting board and place on top the spinach. Thinner pitas will crisp better than thick ones.

1. In a small bowl, whisk oil and garlic together; lightly brush mushrooms on both sides with garlic oil.

2. Barbecue mushrooms on high heat for 2 to 3 minutes per side or until mushrooms are lightly softened.

3. Meanwhile, place pitas on barbecue over high heat and cook for 2 minutes on one side or until warmed through. Remove to a tray or cutting board and spread softer side with tomato pesto. Top with spinach and then warm mushrooms, stem side up.

4. Return to barbecue and cook for additional 2 to 3 minutes or until slightly crisp. Garnish with Parmesan. Cut in halves or quarters and serve immediately. Season with pepper.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ MUSHROOMS.CA

Ingredients

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed into olive oil
- 4 large fresh portobello mushroom caps
- 4 whole-wheat pita breads (15 to 18 cm/6 to 7 inches)
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) sun-dried tomato pesto
- 1 l (4 cups) baby spinach or arugula leaves (60 g/2 oz)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shaved Parmesan or Romano cheese
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

Grilled Mushroom Pita Pizza

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Drink of the Week

Strawberry-Ginger Limade Slushies

Strawberries and limade is a classic summer combination. Throw in some ginger and you have a refreshing drink with which to keep cool.

- 3 cups lightly crushed ice
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup strawberry jam
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- Pinch salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Purée until smooth. You may need to stop the blender once or twice and stir the ingredients in order to keep them moving in the blender. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pin down a job

An interest in Pinterest. How to use this ultra-connected corkboard to land a job

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

Sure, Pinterest is great for finding recipes, wedding dresses and learning how to make your own deodorant, but this visually driven social media can also help you find a job.

In an age where professional Facebook pages and Twesumes are becoming regular additions to job applications, having a professional Pinterest account can help you stand out from the rest of the online crowd.

For those who aren't familiar with the site, Pinterest allows its users to set up an online page and post original and shared content in the form of photos, much like you would pin something to a cork-board. The photo layout of the site makes it easy for readers to get a lot of information in a small amount of space.

Pinterest can be a great way to showcase your skills to potential employers, especially if you're in creative or marketing fields.

You're one click away from an ultra-creative resumé ISTOCK

Create a resumé and portfolio on Pinterest

According to Pinterest's Pin Etiquette, boards are intended to be authentic reflections of each user. And with more than six million users, including major companies, you're showcasing who you are to a big audience.

Creating a professional Pinterest board for your resumé and work portfolio can showcase your skills, talent and creativity to potential employers.

Marketing expert Christopher Penn says, "The key to figuring out how to present effectively on Pinterest is to present visually even for non-visual stuff."

Instead of just telling people you're gutsy, pin a photo of you sky diving to your Pinterest resumé board with the caption "Skydiving? Risk taker." That's exactly what Harvard business school graduate Jeanne Hwang did. Jeanne used her board to showcase her previous jobs, her interests and even a picture of her puppy.

While you can, and should, get creative with what goes on your board, play it straight with your headlines. Titling your boards 'Resumé' or 'Portfolio' makes it clear what the purpose of your board is and makes it easier to find if employers are searching around.

ISHANI NATH IS AN ASPIRING WRITER WHO IS LEARNING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CRAFT IN RYERSON UNIVERSITY'S MASTER OF JOURNALISM PROGRAM.

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MMA

St-Pierre cleared for comeback

Georges St-Pierre says he has been medically cleared to return to the Octagon.

The mixed martial arts star from Montreal had reconstructive knee surgery in January after tearing an anterior cruciate ligament and his internal meniscus during a wrestling training session last fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Georges St-Pierre GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB

Jays lose Bautista for rest of 2012

Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista will have season-ending surgery to stabilize a tendon in his left wrist.

Bautista said Tuesday before the Blue Jays' 2-1 loss at Yankee Stadium that the recovery period is three to four months and he would be ready to play long before the start of spring training next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

"Any experience is incredibly helpful for me right now."

Indianapolis Colts' No. 1 pick Andrew Luck. Thursday's pre-season finale against Cincinnati will be the final chance for Luck and the Colts to fix any problems before the games start counting for real.

Djokovic cruises past Lorenzi in Round 1 of U.S. Open

Novak Djokovic returns a shot during his 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 opening-round win over Paolo Lorenzi at the U.S. Open in New York on Tuesday night. Also on Tuesday, Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., overcame 55 unforced errors including 15 double faults to defeat Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. On the women's side, eighth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, slowed by a right knee injury, fell 6-2, 6-2 to 96th-ranked Irina-Camelia Begu and 19-year-old Sloane Stephens upset 2010 French Open champion, and No. 22 seed, Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-4. MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

NHL puts forth new proposal to players

NHL. Bettman believes new CBA offer constitutes a 'meaningful' step

Gary Bettman believes the NHL took a "significant" step with the counter-proposal it presented in the latest round of collective bargaining.

The commissioner laid out the details of a new offer to the NHL Players' Association on Tuesday morning and later told reporters that it was an improvement from the initial offer put forth by the NHL last month.

"We believe that we made a significant, meaningful step," said Bettman.

Neither side would discuss specific elements of the new deal. NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr gave an initial response to the league on Tuesday afternoon and requested that the parties gather again Wednesday after the union has had more time to examine it.

"It's a proposal that we intend to respond to," said Fehr. "I'll leave it at that."

The current collective agreement expires Sept. 15 and the NHL has said it will lock the players out if a new deal isn't reached by then.

The owners and players have had trouble getting on the same page. Bettman indicated the league's new offer was a direct counter-proposal to the offer the players put forth two weeks ago and hopes it helps spark negotiations.

"I'm trying to get us on to the same page, I'm trying to get us on to a common language," he said.

The proposal was unveiled in an intimate setting, with only Fehr and top assistant Steve Fehr in the room for the players and Bettman and deputy commissioner Bill Daly for the league. The morning meeting lasted about 45 minutes and concluded with Donald Fehr saying he wanted to apprise his constituents of the situation.

About four hours later, the Fehr brothers returned to the NHL's head office along with players Mathieu Darche, Ron Hainsey and Douglas Murray.

The afternoon session was over in about 30 minutes, with both sides agreeing to meet again on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I'm encouraged that we're talking, to be honest with you."

NHL player representative Mathieu Darche on Tuesday's proposal from the league. Darche added that it's obvious the NHL took time to come up with the new proposal.

It's books over blocks for Lions' Norman

Matt Norman's standout rookie season with the B.C. Lions is coming to a premature close, but it's ending on his terms.

The offensive guard is slated to play the final game of the season Friday in Montreal against the Alouettes before heading back to the University of Western Ontario to study for his teaching certificate.

"It's just so that I can be productive in the off-season," Norman said after practice Tuesday.

Norman, in his first pro season following his university career with the Western Mustangs, has started seven of B.C.'s eight games.

He plans to return to the Lions next season after completing the necessary qualifications to teach high school history and geography. Western's teaching program is currently a one-year program, but it will be extended to two years starting in the 2013-14 academic year.

"Without getting too complicated, if I don't do this now, I won't be able to teach in the off-season and get some experience for teaching down the road," he said.

Norman, a 24-year-old Chateauguay, Que., native who was the Lions' third-round choice (22nd overall) in this year's CFL draft, wants to be ready for the time when his playing days are done for good. In addition to teaching full-time, he hopes to coach.

"I don't know how long my career in the CFL is going to last," he said. "Next year? The year after that? Five years down the road? Who knows?"

Norman was schooled in his first pro regular-season game against Winnipeg, when he was pulled from his starting post at half-time, but has excelled since then.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I want to be able to step into a career as soon as I'm done."

Matt Norman, who plans to return to the Lions next season after completing the necessary qualifications to teach high school history and geography

Reid ready to go

Lions centre Angus Reid returned to practice after sitting out Monday with a foot injury suffered in Saturday's win over Winnipeg.

- He is expected to play Friday in the first of back-to-back contests between the Lions and Alouettes.

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports

Canada's Paralympic team has reached an all-time high in financing and support heading into London. And with the Games set to kick off on Wednesday, it couldn't have come at a better time with the competition perhaps stiffer than ever. Scan the code for the story.

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Trim options

The $21,500 (including destination charges) base LS doesn't stray too far from basic, but spending an extra $2,300 for the 1LT trim adds air conditioning, cruise control, tilt/telescoping steering, floor console and upgraded seat coverings.

Versatility

The basic platform is shared with Chevrolet's Cruze sedan, although the Orlando is somewhat longer and wider overall and features an extra 7.5 centimetres between the front and rear wheels.

That added distance is the key to the Orlando's versatility. Three rows of seats come standard on all trim levels, including a 60:40 split-folding three-place second row and a 50:50 split-folding two-passenger third row that's more kid friendly than anything. Both second- and third-rows can be folded completely flat, creating a cavernous cargo hold that can swallow nearly any big-box-store item you would care to haul home.

For smaller items there are plenty of handy storage spots to be found throughout the cabin.

2012 Chevrolet Orlando

- **Type.** Four-door, seven-passenger, front-wheel-drive compact wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (174).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.1/6.7(MT).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $21,500.

Review. It carries plenty, without costing plenty

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Canadians should be grateful that General Motors has brought the Chevrolet Orlando to this country.

That's because, for some reason, Chevy fans and dealers south of the border are going without this practical and affordable wagon that hails from GM's Korean subsidiary. Named for a city in Florida, but won't be available there?

Interesting.

The Orlando (perhaps the Saskatoon or the Halifax might have made better names) slots directly below the five-seat Equinox and well below the full-size Traverse in Chevrolet's tall-wagon hierarchy.

This junior-sized, front-wheel-drive space maker is an ideal minivan alternative. Its seven-passenger capacity is a match for most vehicles in the people-mover class, albeit in a tighter package for people and goods. But the Orlando actually competes against the Mazda 5, Kia Rondo and Dodge Journey. This trio also offers three-row seating and all but only the Journey can be ordered with optional all-wheel-drive.

The Orlando might have far offshore roots, but from its prominent Chevrolet "bow-tie" brand on the grille to its rear liftgate, this wagon is definitely domestically influenced. In particular the side view appears inspired by the bigger Traverse, especially the wide doors and the upsweep of the roof pillar. The character-adding flared-out fenders and full-length roof rails also help make the vehicle appear larger than it actually is.

With its up-front costs within reach of most Canadian families, the Orlando should easily make the active-consideration list. Feeling sorry for our Orlando-less American neighbours comes at no extra charge.

DRIVE 5

On the Web

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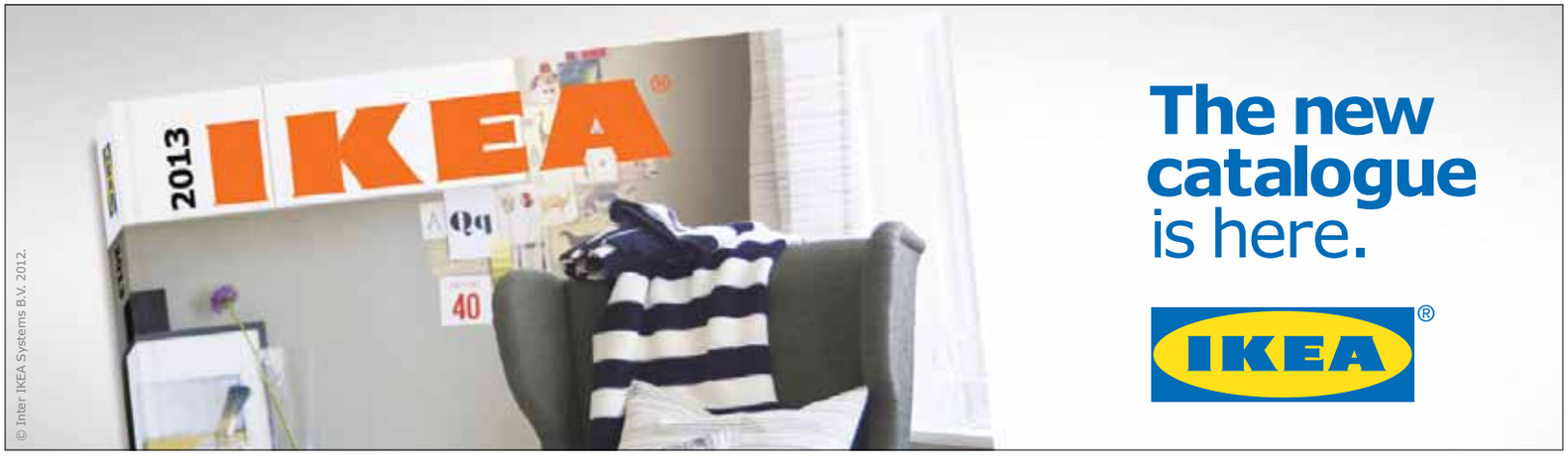

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There are reasons it's so loved by Canucks

Second Gear.
2008 to 2012
Ford Escape

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Selection, style and capability were arguably the biggest draws to the outgoing generation of the Ford Escape.

With four and six-cylinder power, front or all-wheel drive, generous ground clearance and a large span of options and packages, this Canadian favourite offered a variation that was just right for virtually any shopper.

Key competitors included the Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V and Nissan Rogue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common Issues

Approach your used Escape looking for signs of transmission trouble. Hard shifting, 'flaring' or slipping during gear changes could all be signs of trouble. Ensure the unit shifts between drive and reverse as quickly as you'd expect, too. Be double sure the transmission in the used Escape you're considering operates as expected — and have a mechanical inspection completed regardless.

Your local Ford dealer will be familiar with the Escape's potential transmission trouble and able to quickly diagnose or repair any issues — whether covered by a recall or otherwise.

Also, have the engine checked for oil level, condition and signs of leakage.

Engine

Look for four- and six-cylinder engines, with output as high as 240 horsepower. In 2009, the Escape's powertrain lineup was updated to include newer, more modern engines and transmissions.

What Owners Like

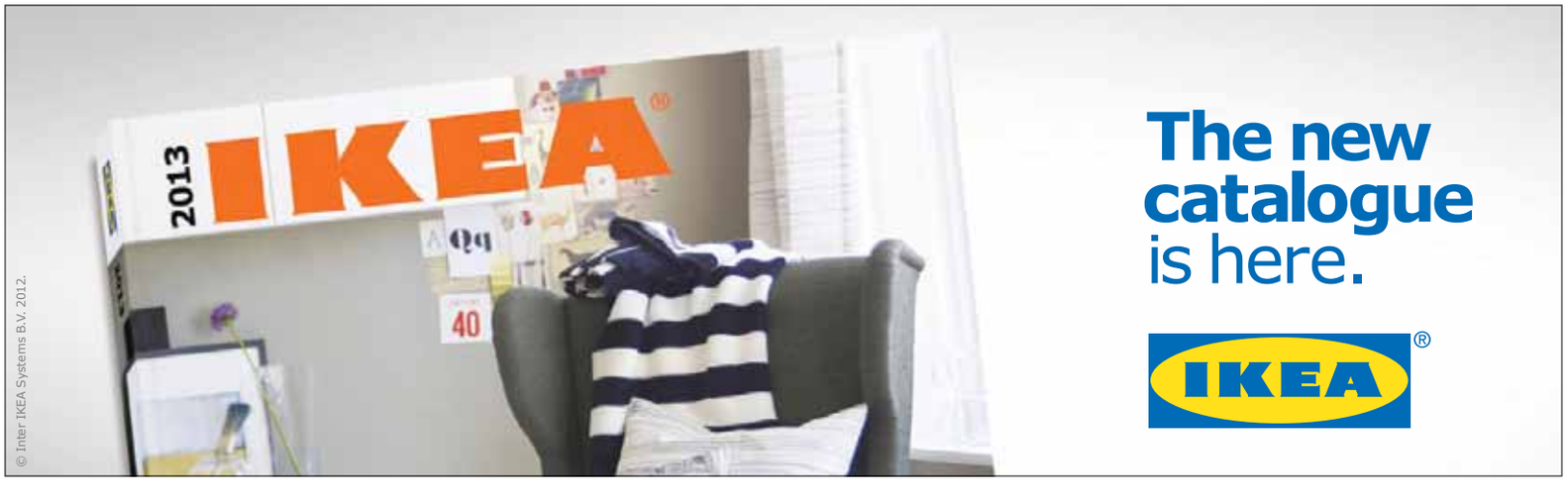
Performance from the V6 engine, off-road capability with 4-wheel drive, a sporty and comfortable ride and a flexible interior were all rated highly by owners.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints include 'gear hunting,' noisy engines, poor performance from the factory stereo system and higher-than-expected levels of road noise.

Verdict

Shoppers set on this generation Escape are advised to seek out a dealer-maintained model with a good portion of remaining factory warranty, opting for extended powertrain warranty coverage if their budget allows.



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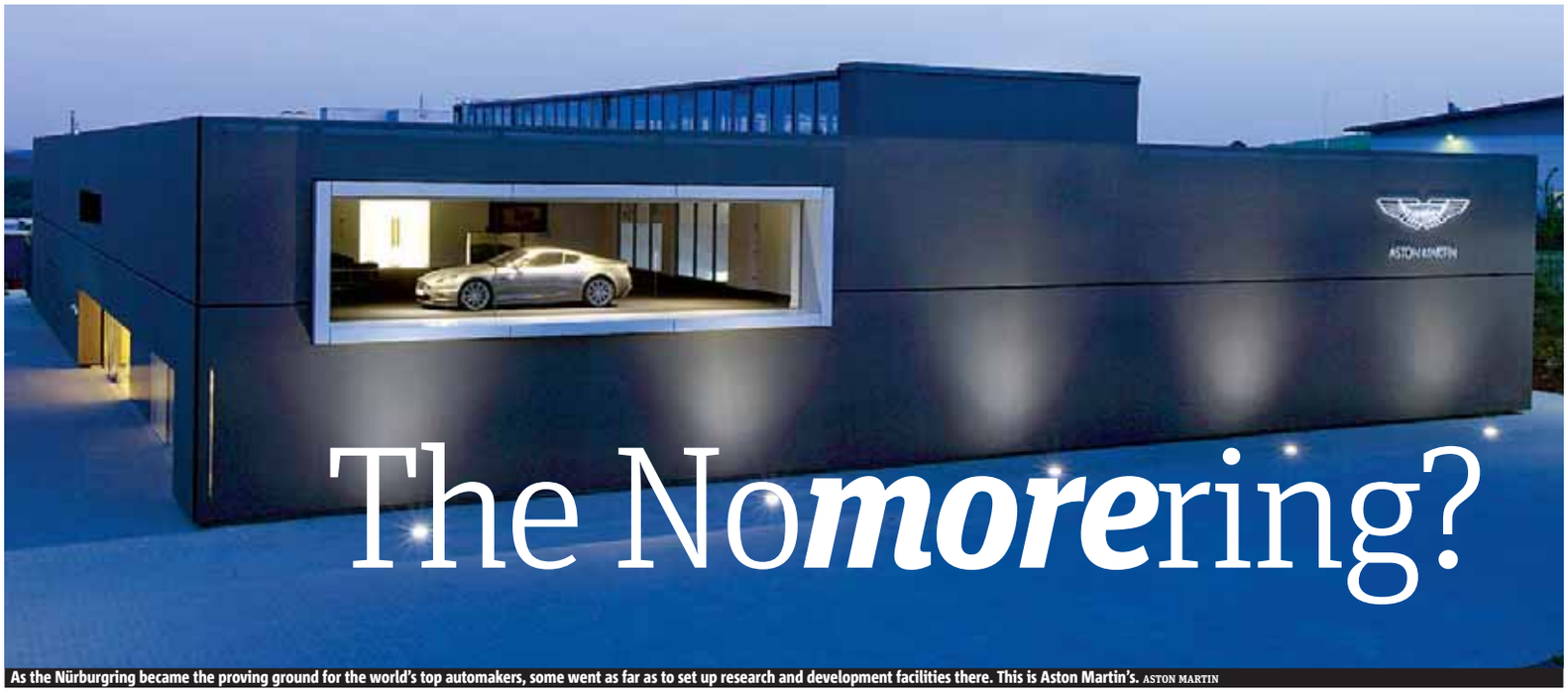

The Nomorering?

As the Nürburgring became the proving ground for the world's top automakers, some went as far as to set up research and development facilities there. This is Aston Martin's. ASTON MARTIN

Auto Know.

World's yardstick for performance, the Nürburgring, caught in the crossfire of promises gone bad, strange business model ideas and a government that's had enough of pouring money in 'The Green Hell'

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TODD D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

Former Formula One driver Sir Jackie Stewart called it "The Green Hell" for a reason. It's tough and dangerous. But the Nürburgring might have earned the name lately for a completely different reason. The wrong reason. It's a money pit.

It's a story of bad business, angry locals, bribery allegations, and more twists and bends than the 174 turns once featured on the same Nürburgring racetrack all this intrigue surrounds.

The Nürburgring is a legendary motorsports complex built around the village of Nürburg, in the Eifel Mountains of West Germany.

It was once the thriving standard of road racing and a familiar home to the Formula One German Grand Prix and has become the performance yardstick for many automakers around the world. But major changes to the iconic racetrack and a failed business plan have recently driven this once proud facility into bankruptcy, putting the 85-year-old complex in jeopardy.

According to multiple reports, the Nürburgring — which is 90 per cent owned by the state government in Rhineland-Palatinate — faces a debt of 300 million euros ($365 million) after major and costly renovations in 2009 didn't generate the necessary revenue to meet loan payments.

The German state tried to avoid bankruptcy for its track in July, or at least buy a little time, by filing for an emergency loan of 13 million euros ($15.8 million) from the European government. But with the European economy currently running on financial fumes, the European Commission denied the request and state governor, Ken Beck, conceded the inevitable.

There are competitive events, yes, but the Nürburgring is often open to the general public to drive for a small fee. ASTON MARTIN

"There is a high probability of insolvency (July 2012) due to a lack of liquidity."

What all of this means to the future of Nürburgring and its place as a Formula One site remains uncertain and impossible to predict, but looking back to how the racing complex went from invincibility to insolvency is a necessary step before looking forward.

Opening in 1927, the original Nürburgring course featured four different layouts — the longest being 28 kilometres — to accommodate different racing series. Because it was considered the most demanding, treacherous and difficult racing circuit in the world, Nürburgring earned the nickname "The Green Hell" from Stewart.

Other than a few tweaks and some safety improvements, Nürburgring remained relatively unchanged until 1970 when the track was made straighter, smoother, shorter, slower and safer, much to the dismay of the locals who found the new configuration to be too "user friendly."

Nürburgring became a regular stop on the Formula One circuit in 1951 and remained one until 1976, when the German Grand Prix was moved to Hockenheimring in Hockenheim, Germany, for every year between 1977 and 2006, save for 1985.

And while Nürburgring lost its hold on the Formula One race, public events and other racing initiatives kept the track solvent and stable until a bold and expensive decision in 2004 to undergo massive renovations became the first domino to bankruptcy.

Hoping to generate revenue from non-motorsport promotions in the area, grandiose plans emerged to build an amusement park, shopping mall and hotel on Nürburgring property, further irritating racing purists and the local fan base.

According to a story on caranddriver.com, shady investors promised to support the project, but never delivered on the funds, putting a $610 million financial burden on the state government. The spending spree was finally put to an end in July when, after three years, it became clear the redevelopment projects that were completed in 2009 would never generate enough revenue to stay current on the loans.

Ironically, 2009 was the same year the German Grand Prix returned — after a 20-year absence — to Nürburgring in an agreement with Hockenheimring to alternate the race each year between the two venues. Sharing the race would help ease the financial burden for each site of the multi-million host fees paid by tracks interested in holding a Formula One race.

And that brings us back to today's bankruptcy proceedings. Hoping to preserve the German Grand Prix date at Nürburgring, Formula One Management president and CEO Bernie Ecclestone recently offered a polarizing solution to keep Nürburgring as a biannual stop for the German Grand Prix.

Ecclestone has said he is willing to wave the host fee — about $30 million paid to Formula One Management — provided his business gets to keep 100 per cent of the revenue earned by the event.

Those negotiations are in their infancy and no official decision has been reached, but the Nürburgring saga took an interesting twist the weekend of July 21-22 when Ecclestone failed to show up for either the German Grand Prix or a meeting with Nürburgring officials in Germany to discuss the financial crisis and possible solutions.

Ecclestone, 81, has not talked publicly about the Nürburgring situation and he didn't offer an explanation for the no-show, although speculation runs rampant. As for the future of Nürburgring and its place on the Formula One schedule, speculation is also the rule.

It's unlikely any private investors would be interested in the amusement park, shopping mall and the other money pits on the property, and those will likely be shut down, while many believe secondary racing, concerts, public track rentals and any other profitable operations will remain intact.

Whether that survivor list will ever include the German Grand Prix remains to be seen, in what has become a high-speed soap opera.

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The most wonderful time of the year

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Last week of summer. A joyous time for parents with school-age kids.

Two reasons to give thanks.

One, it's great to see their good times come crashing down — they had it too good for too long.

Two, it's another poignant reminder that your own school days are mercifully over, and you won't be the one heading out the door next Tuesday with a bad lunch and an over-stuffed backpack.

School isn't all bad, of course. And if you're the type that gets an extra kick from things automotive, then high school was, or will be, a heady time.

An automotive restorer once told me that, almost without fail, a guy would restore and/or buy a particular model of classic car later in life, based on their first-ever car lust, which usually occurred when they were 12 to 14.

The cool cars they saw then on the road, and envisioned themselves behind the wheel of, will remain the coolest cars ever made, in their opinion.

So just think of the young brains that are getting programmed for life right now, by their first in-the-flesh encounters with something like an Audi R8, Lamborghini Aventador, or McLaren MP4-12C.

High school is also when a lot of kids first learn to drive, and possibly get their own cars. (There was one memorable guy in my Grade 8 class who not only had his licence, but also his own car, which he drove to school, and parked in the same lot as the teachers! Obviously this was an era in which you were actually allowed to fail an elementary grade.)

My parents wouldn't allow me to purchase my own car in high school, on the premise that I had no business owning a car, when all I wanted to do with one is drive around town playing 8-track tapes.

It was a particularly hurtful thing to say because it was 100 per cent accurate.

I guess the most iconic school-related vehicle is the yellow school bus. Progress marches on, but the school bus seems resistant to change.

In that regard, they're much like that Coke-Pepsi line. All sorts of cultural walls have come down, but you still can't get Coke and Pepsi together in the same eating or drinking establishment. It's one or the other folks…

But back to school buses. They haven't changed much because they continue to have a great safety record.

Yes, they look antiquated, but their serious "mass" and serious "yellowness" make them very visible and very energy absorbent. And with the seats so tight together, and with padding on the seat backs, the kids don't get thrown around too much when things get hairy.

Drivers are also highly trained working on familiar routes, and they're usually only on the road in daylight hours.

Almost makes you wish you could get back on one, eh?

Ah the ol' school bus. Is it time for a redesign? We don't think so. ISTOCK

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CITY (A/T): 8.6L/100KM

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Offer(s) available on select new 2012/2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by August 31, 2012. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. *9% purchase financing is available on select 2012/2013 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Soul 1.6L AT (SO75C) with a selling price of $21,867 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650), $500 loan savings, $1,050 "3 payments on us" savings, other fees and certain taxes (including tire levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable) financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Bi-weekly payments equal $166 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA and registration fees are extra. Cost of borrowing of $0 for a total obligation of $21,867. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. **"Don't Pay For 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2012 and 2013 models on approved credit (OAC). 2012/2013 Sportage/Sorento/Sedona excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal plus interest monthly over the term of the contract. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75B)/2013 Sorento 3.5 LX V6 (SR75D) based on a selling price of $28,667/$32,267, $395/$471 with an APR of 0%/1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,048/$8,885 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Offer includes a lease savings of $500. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees and certain taxes (including tire levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. See dealer for full details. ‡Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC) on 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT FWD (SP54LD) 2013 Optima LX MT (OP54LD) models and other eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2012/2013 Rio–4 Sedan/Rio5/Forte/Forte Koup/Forte5/Sorento from a participating dealer between August 1 – August 15, 2012. Lease savings for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75B)/2013 Sorento 3.5 LX V6 (SR75D) is $500, and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. §Eligible lease and purchase finance (including Flex Choice) customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $300/$300/$450/$450/$550/$550/month. Lease and finance purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $900/$900/$1,050/$1,050/$1,650 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. ¥ECO-Credit for 2013 Optima Hybrid is $1,000 and is applicable to the purchase or lease of a new 2013 Kia Optima Hybrid. Available at participating dealers. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ◊Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 2.5L SX AWD (SR75FD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP75FD)/2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP78D) is $43,045/$39,145/$35,550 and includes a delivery and destination fees of $1,650/$1,650/$1,455, other fees and certain taxes (including tire levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary. Some conditions apply to the $500 Goal Rebate Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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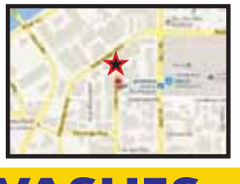

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Subaru's EyeSight is watching out for you

Driving Force. Safety feature is 'like a fighter jet targeting system' that will help you avoid collisions

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

It never hurts to have an extra pair of eyes watching the road. That's the idea behind Subaru's new EyeSight system, an affordable package of safety technologies that uses a unique stereo camera mounted at the top of the windshield.

"This is the first system of its kind to be introduced on Subaru," says Frederick Lane, specialist for technical training at Subaru Canada. "It incorporates seven safety features, including active safety, preventative safety, and passive safety."

EyeSight uses two charge-coupled device (CCD) cameras, developed by Subaru, which capture an image and turn it into electrical pulses that the system can recognize. The system processes these stereo images to identify vehicles, obstacles, traffic lanes and other items. By using images, the system doesn't just realize objects are up ahead, but can accurately identify them.

"Radar (systems) know there's something there, but can't figure out what it is," Lane says. "EyeSight is like a fighter jet targeting system, figuring out how much of a threat an object is."

It can also accurately determine how far away each object is.

"It captures images from the left and right cameras and will compare the contrast change from left to right, and figure out how many pixels are in between the distance," Lane says. "That's how it views obstacles and how far away they are."

Using data from the cameras, the EyeSight system provides adaptive cruise control, which keeps a pre-set distance from vehicles ahead; lane departure and sway warning, which beeps a warning if the driver crosses a line without signalling, or swerves back and forth through inattention or fatigue; and pre-collision braking and collision mitigation, applying the brakes to either slow or stop if there's something ahead and the driver isn't reacting.

The system will beep a warning at a stoplight if the car in front of you moves and you don't, in case you're lost in thought when the light turns green. It is capable of recognizing pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles, and will slow down or stop the vehicle if the driver doesn't respond to potential danger.

EyeSight will also dramatically reduce the throttle's effectiveness if the gas pedal is activated when something is in the way. This could prevent mishaps when a driver mistakenly puts the car into Drive, instead of Reverse, in front of a garage door or parking barrier.

The new system will be available on select trim lines of the 2013 Subaru Legacy and Outback.

Gaining popularity

- The EyeSight system was launched in Japan in 2011. Within three months, it was ordered on more than half of all vehicles available with it, and now represents more than 90 per cent.
- The system does have limitations, and is meant as assistance, not a replacement for attentive driving.

The EyeSight system uses a unique stereo camera that looks through the windshield.

EyeSight brakes the vehicle if an object is ahead and the driver does not react. PHOTOS BY JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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*Limited time purchase finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, on the following select new and unregistered 2012 models: Jetta, Golf 3-door, Golf 5-door, Golf Wagon, CC, Routan, Tiguan and Passat. TDI Clean Diesel models, Golf GTI, Golf R, Jetta GLI, Eos, Touareg and Beetle models are excluded. MSRP of $15,875/$28,150 for a new and unregistered 2012 Jetta 2.0L / 2012 Tiguan 2.0T base model with Cold Weather Package and with 5-speed/6-speed manual transmission. Price excludes $1,365/$1,580 freight and PDI. Financed at 0% APR for 60 months equals $287.33/$495.50 per month. Monthly payment finance example includes freight and PDI (with base MSRP of $15,875/$28,150) only. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,875/$28,150. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. **Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2012 Jetta 2.0L / 2012 Tiguan 2.0T base model with Cold Weather Package and with 5-speed/6-speed manual transmission. $1,365/$1,580 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 36-month term at 1.9%/0% APR. $1,716/$4,560 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $220/$330 security deposit, and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $7,800/$14,568. 48,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. †Offer of $500 available on cash purchase, lease and purchase financing (through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit), on new and unregistered models. Offer available for current Volkswagen owners only. Proof of ownership may be required. Certain conditions apply. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end August 31, 2012 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2012 Jetta Highline 2.5L as shown is $24,875. 2012 Tiguan 2.0T with Sport Package as shown is $40,275. Certain options and accessories may be extra. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Jetta" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2012 Volkswagen Canada.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A lot is at stake at the moment, especially financially, so don't let others rush you into making any sudden decisions. The more they try to convince you that you need to act immediately, the more you should take your time.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You must make an effort to control your emotions. As Mars, planet of anger, moves through your opposite sign you will get upset more easily than usual with people who annoy you. Don't go too far.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
This is a good time to make changes to your work routine but make sure they are changes that favour you and not other people. Colleagues and employers will take advantage of you if you let them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
This is a great time for getting things done. With Mars on your side, there is precious little you cannot accomplish. But you must be clear about your aims. Set yourself a single goal each and every day.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If your domestic situation could do with some sort of improvement then now is the time to stop thinking about it and do something practical. Don't just touch up the paintwork, have a complete renovation.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With Mars, planet of action, moving through the area of your chart that governs travel and social activities, you won't let anyone or anything hold you back from having a good time. You thoroughly deserve it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be a little worried about your money situation but there is really no need. Over the next few weeks you will get several opportunities to boost the size of your bank balance. Don't waste them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mars, planet of ambition, is now well established in your birth sign, which means you can at last start putting your plans into effect. Take responsibility for your own success — and take what it is you desire.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You like to see the world through rose-tinted spectacles but you may have to work harder at it today. When things go wrong — and sometimes they will — don't assume that the sky is about to fall. It's never that bad.

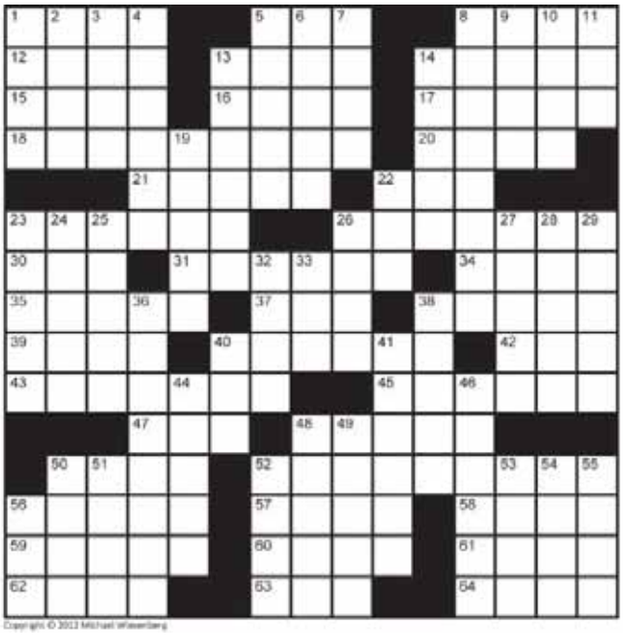
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you make the effort to work with people, there is no limit to what you can accomplish over the next few days. Join forces with those who share your dreams. Together you can make them happen.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Whatever your career may be, it will take on more importance now and in the near future. It's not about your worldly status, it's about what your talents are and how you can use them for the greater good.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can, if you wish, throw caution to the wind and do as you please. You can, if you wish, neglect your chores and indulge your passions. And you should. You very much need some down time — and that time is now. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Teams, Author, Places, Symbol

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Steve McQueen's first major movie, with "The"
5. NNW's opposite
8. CAA giveaways
12. Ready to be picked
13. Toronto-born classical pianist Gould
14. Chalet overhangs
15. "Be with you in ___!" (2 wds)
16. Bassoon or clarinet
17. Lockups at sea
18. Montréal team
20. Helps
21. "Would I ___ you?" (2 wds.)
22. Picnic pest
23. *I, Robot* author Isaac
26. Alberta's northern member of the CFL
30. Alta. neighbor
31. Decorative stickers
34. Underground digging workplace
35. Québec peninsula
37. Canadiens member, familiarly
38. Distributed cards
39. Prevaricator
40. Medicinal amount
42. Lean-___: makeshift sheds
43. Where to find Kingston
45. Parliament's home
47. Bond creator Fleming
48. "Tell ___ I Love Her": 1960 teenage tragedy hit
50. Barroom projectile
52. Canada symbol (2 wds.)
56. Ontario-born Mandel of *Deal or No Deal*
57. With respect to, legal letter style (2 wds.)
58. Great Lake
59. Barbecue residue
60. Campfire entertainment
61. "And ___ word from our sponsor" (2 wds.)
62. Bovine sounds
63. My gal of song
64. 1917 revolution casualty

Down
1. Bric-a-___: knick-knacks
2. Bart Simpson's sister
3. Unclosed
4. "Relax" (2 wds.)
5. Icy precipitation
6. "___ evil, speak ..." (2 wds.)
7. Finishes
8. ___ Provinces: they're on the Atlantic
9. Gung-ho
10. Coat hooks
11. "Boo-o-o-o-o!"
13. Mourn
14. Online loan source
19. Electron tube
22. Blockhead
23. Non Francophone
24. Boyfriend in Shakespeare's time
25. "Can you show me where ___?" (2 wds.)
26. 1814-15 exile for Napoleon
27. Mazda introduced in 1989
28. At the minimum setting (2 wds.)
29. ___ good example: is a role model (2 wds.)
32. Doubled, a train
33. Certain batteries
36. Provinces between BC and 43-Across, familiarly
38. Raison _'___: reason for being
40. Uproar
41. Robert ___: Canadian-American singer and actor who starred as Lancelot in the 1960 Broadway musical *Camelot*
44. Bank posting
46. Artistic asset
48. Sri ___, formerly Ceylon
49. Taxing time
50. "Make it happen" (2 wds.)
51. *Horton Hears* ___: Dr. Seuss (2 wds.)
52. Bypass
53. Valentine personality
54. Stereo brand
55. Dread
56. Overacting actor

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

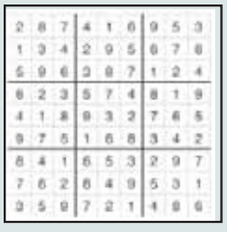
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	9	7	5		6			4
	6	1						9
3			8					
4	7				5			
	3	5				2	1	
			6				5	3
					8			6
2						5	7	
9			1		4	3	8	

Yesterday's Sudoku



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Limited model shown

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HIGHWAY 4.9L/100 KM 58 MPG▾

SELLING PRICE:	OWN IT	WITH	AND
$20,644♦	$122 BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT	1.9%† FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS	$0 DOWN PAYMENT

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